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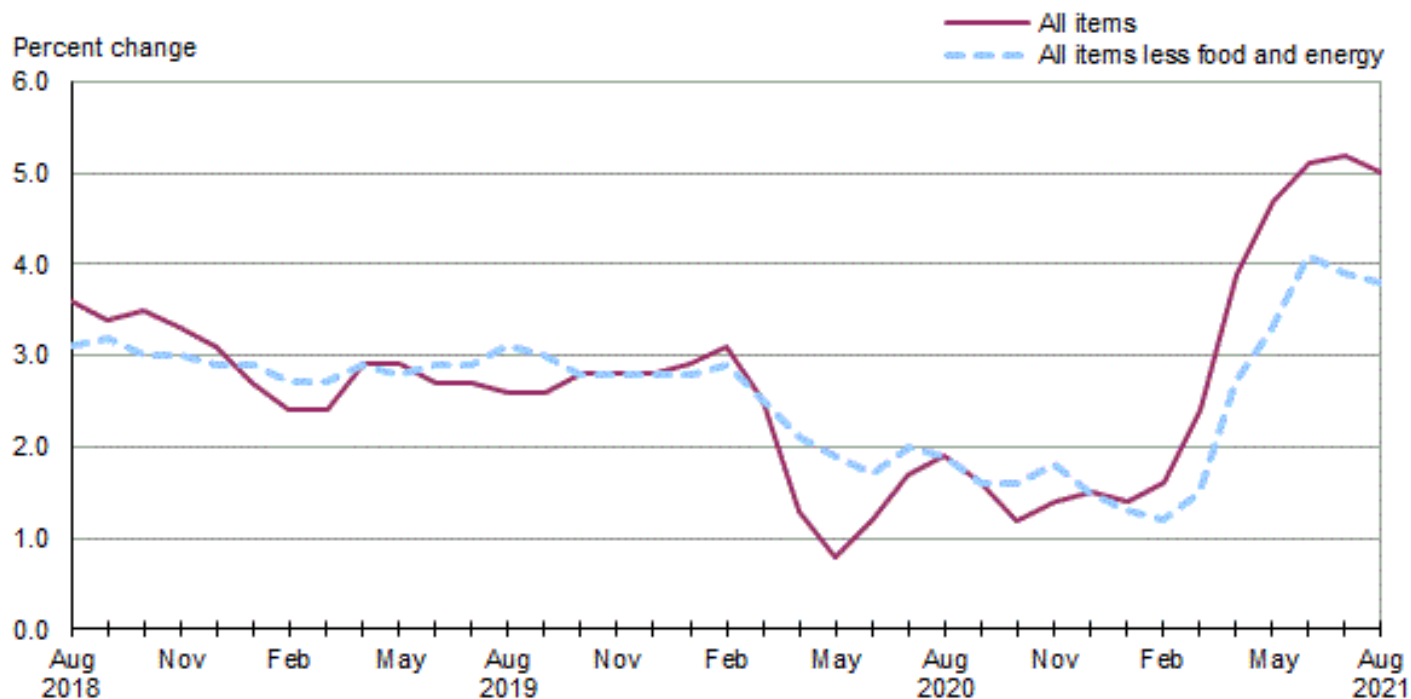
Consumer Price Index, West Region — August 2021

Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 5.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), crept up 0.2 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The August increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter 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 5.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices rose 4.1 percent. Energy prices jumped 25.3 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.8 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices inched up 0.2 percent for the month of August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 0.3 percent, influenced by higher prices for fruits and vegetables (1.1 percent). Prices for food away from home edged up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.1 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 4.8 percent. Prices for food at home rose 3.6 percent since a year ago, led by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (9.3 percent).

Energy

The energy index rose 1.3 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (2.0 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 1.0 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 25.3 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (40.1 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 11.6 percent, and prices for electricity increased 6.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in August. Higher prices for recreation (1.1 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-0.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (17.5 percent), recreation (5.1 percent), and shelter (2.6 percent). Partially offsetting the increases was a lower price for medical care (-0.3 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	1.0	3.9
May.....	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5	0.5	2.9	0.1	0.8	0.8	4.7
June.....	0.0	2.5	0.2	3.6	0.0	2.7	0.4	1.2	0.9	5.1
July.....	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.6	0.0	2.7	0.5	1.7	0.6	5.2
August.....	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.6	0.1	2.6	0.3	1.9	0.2	5.0
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 September 2021 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on October 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on August 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 August 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 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-		
	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Aug. 2020	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	288.263	289.863	290.393	5.0	0.7	0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	465.962	468.547	469.404			
Food and beverages	287.615	290.472	291.059	4.0	1.2	0.2
Food	288.239	291.398	291.915	4.1	1.3	0.2
Food at home	269.676	272.502	273.184	3.6	1.3	0.3
Cereals and bakery products	271.134	275.279	273.850	1.8	1.0	-0.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	301.824	304.475	305.328	9.3	1.2	0.3
Dairy and related products	244.958	249.618	247.499	0.1	1.0	-0.8
Fruits and vegetables	349.760	348.995	352.899	0.7	0.9	1.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	190.854	191.918	194.802	3.9	2.1	1.5
Other food at home	223.990	227.921	227.589	2.9	1.6	-0.1
Food away from home.....	312.352	315.954	316.242	4.8	1.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	276.072	275.127	276.575	2.7	0.2	0.5
Housing	315.145	316.374	317.480	2.8	0.7	0.3
Shelter	362.727	364.668	365.599	2.6	0.8	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1).....	385.176	385.960	387.334	2.0	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	381.084	382.556	384.151	2.6	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	381.031	382.499	384.080	2.6	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	335.277	338.607	339.920	6.7	1.4	0.4
Household energy	286.018	288.609	289.239	7.8	1.1	0.2
Energy services(1)	288.319	290.859	291.461	7.6	1.1	0.2
Electricity(1).....	321.124	322.740	322.659	6.5	0.5	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	228.262	233.384	235.786	11.6	3.3	1.0
Household furnishings and operations.....	140.834	139.064	140.539	1.3	-0.2	1.1
Apparel	115.707	115.154	117.294	5.1	1.4	1.9
Transportation	248.397	251.485	249.282	18.3	0.4	-0.9
Private transportation	245.123	248.783	248.765	19.0	1.5	0.0
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	119.848	121.095	119.949	17.5	0.1	-0.9
New vehicles	157.642	160.029	160.827	7.4	2.0	0.5
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	109.535	111.174	111.723	7.4	2.0	0.5
New cars(4).....	155.634		158.469	6.7	1.8	
Used cars and trucks.....	190.639	191.889	189.367	32.1	-0.7	-1.3
Motor fuel	304.173	315.205	321.517	40.1	5.7	2.0
Gasoline (all types).....	303.449	314.438	320.704	40.1	5.7	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	300.179	311.203	317.473	41.0	5.8	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	289.837	300.051	306.023	37.7	5.6	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	297.126	307.334	313.192	36.7	5.4	1.9
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	844.862	838.731	820.964	0.9	-2.8	-2.1
Medical Care	540.688	541.222	542.553	-0.3	0.3	0.2
Medical care commodities.....	417.626	417.940	417.318	-2.6	-0.1	-0.1
Medical care services.....	578.738	579.341	581.285	0.2	0.4	0.3
Professional services	375.654	377.271	378.388	3.2	0.7	0.3
Recreation(3).....	119.441	120.253	121.615	5.1	1.8	1.1
Education and communication(3).....	140.538	140.400	140.721	0.1	0.1	0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)	1,514.489	1,514.781	1,528.969	1.2	1.0	0.9
Other goods and services	475.949	476.463	476.138	3.9	0.0	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	288.263	289.863	290.393	5.0	0.7	0.2
Commodities	204.374	206.153	207.313	8.8	1.4	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 West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Aug. 2020	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021
Commodities less food & beverages.....	162.903	164.187	165.508	12.2	1.6	0.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	207.632	210.323	212.392	12.7	2.3	1.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	272.099	277.022	279.061	15.1	2.6	0.7
Durables	120.586	120.895	121.638	11.6	0.9	0.6
Services.....	365.436	366.763	366.581	2.9	0.3	0.0
Rent of shelter(2).....	386.375	388.466	389.465	2.6	0.8	0.3
Transportation services	335.488	334.006	319.961	6.3	-4.6	-4.2
Other services	373.204	374.008	375.390	2.5	0.6	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	276.697	278.336	278.830	5.5	0.8	0.2
All items less food	288.418	289.763	290.295	5.2	0.7	0.2
All items less shelter.....	259.030	260.495	260.868	6.4	0.7	0.1
Commodities less food	167.221	168.452	169.787	11.7	1.5	0.8
Nondurables	247.797	250.584	251.941	7.6	1.7	0.5
Nondurables less food.....	212.849	215.310	217.345	11.8	2.1	0.9
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	272.153	276.448	278.422	13.6	2.3	0.7
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	379.711	380.216	378.514	3.2	-0.3	-0.4
Services less medical care services.....	350.537	351.909	351.586	3.2	0.3	-0.1
Energy	301.487	309.105	313.100	25.3	3.9	1.3
All items less energy	289.794	290.999	291.298	3.8	0.5	0.1
All items less food and energy	290.888	291.746	292.007	3.8	0.4	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	152.290	152.531	153.360	7.1	0.7	0.5
Energy commodities.....	309.363	320.517	326.880	39.8	5.7	2.0
Services less energy services.....	371.317	372.581	372.354	2.7	0.3	-0.1

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.