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Consumer Price Index, West Region — September 2021

Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 5.3 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 September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) The September increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and food at home. (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 5.3 percent. (See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices increased 4.7 percent. Energy prices jumped 25.1 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 4.0 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

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

Month	All items	All items less food and energy
Sep 2018	3.4	3.2
Oct 2018	3.5	3.0
Nov 2018	3.3	3.0
Dec 2018	3.1	2.9
Jan 2019	2.7	2.9
Feb 2019	2.4	2.7
Mar 2019	2.4	2.7
Apr 2019	2.9	2.9
May 2019	2.9	2.8
Jun 2019	2.7	2.9
Jul 2019	2.7	2.9
Aug 2019	2.6	3.1
Sep 2019	2.6	3.0
Oct 2019	2.8	2.8
Nov 2019	2.8	2.8
Dec 2019	2.8	2.8
Jan 2020	2.9	2.8
Feb 2020	3.1	2.9
Mar 2020	2.5	2.5
Apr 2020	1.3	2.1
May 2020	0.8	1.9
Jun 2020	1.2	1.7
Jul 2020	1.7	2.0
Aug 2020	1.9	1.9
Sep 2020	1.6	1.6
Oct 2020	1.2	1.6
Nov 2020	1.4	1.8
Dec 2020	1.5	1.5

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

Month	All items	All items less food and energy
Jan 2021	1.4	1.3
Feb 2021	1.6	1.2
Mar 2021	2.4	1.5
Apr 2021	3.9	2.7
May 2021	4.7	3.3
Jun 2021	5.1	4.1
Jul 2021	5.2	3.9
Aug 2021	5.0	3.8
Sep 2021	5.3	4.0

Food

Food prices advanced 0.6 percent for the month of September. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home advanced 1.1 percent, led by meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (2.5 percent). Prices for food away from home, however, inched down 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 4.7 percent. Prices for food at home rose 5.1 percent. Higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs led the food categories (12.4 percent) since a year ago. Prices for food away from home rose 4.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index inched up 0.1 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for natural gas service (2.6 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, but prices for gasoline declined 0.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 25.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (39.1 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 12.4 percent, and prices for electricity increased 7.0 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in September. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (1.6 percent), education and communication (1.1 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for used cars and trucks (-3.7 percent) and recreation (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 4.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included used cars and trucks (24.8 percent) and shelter (3.0 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	0.2	5.3
October	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.8	0.2	1.2		

Table A. West region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted - Continued

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
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 October 2021 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on November 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on September 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 September 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 measures 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-		
	Historical data	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
Expenditure category							
All Items		289.863	290.393	291.053	5.3	0.4	0.2
All items (December 1977=100)		468.547	469.404	470.472			
Food and beverages		290.472	291.059	292.714	4.6	0.8	0.6
Food		291.398	291.915	293.563	4.7	0.7	0.6
Food at home		272.502	273.184	276.214	5.1	1.4	1.1
Cereals and bakery products		275.279	273.850	275.683	2.0	0.1	0.7
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs		304.475	305.328	313.044	12.4	2.8	2.5
Dairy and related products		249.618	247.499	248.095	0.0	-0.6	0.2
Fruits and vegetables		348.995	352.899	354.381	1.7	1.5	0.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials		191.918	194.802	197.773	6.5	3.1	1.5
Other food at home		227.921	227.589	229.150	4.1	0.5	0.7
Food away from home		315.954	316.242	315.983	4.3	0.0	-0.1
Alcoholic beverages		275.127	276.575	278.304	3.6	1.2	0.6
Housing		316.374	317.480	319.019	3.3	0.8	0.5
Shelter		364.668	365.599	366.780	3.0	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1)		385.960	387.334	388.815	2.2	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)		382.556	384.151	385.975	3.0	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)		382.499	384.080	385.876	3.0	0.9	0.5
Fuels and utilities		338.607	339.920	342.087	7.4	1.0	0.6
Household energy		288.609	289.239	291.092	8.5	0.9	0.6
Energy services(1)		290.859	291.461	293.039	8.2	0.7	0.5
Electricity(1)		322.740	322.659	322.529	7.0	-0.1	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1)		233.384	235.786	241.875	12.4	3.6	2.6
Household furnishings and operations		139.064	140.539	142.813	2.5	2.7	1.6
Apparel		115.154	117.294	119.128	4.2	3.5	1.6
Transportation		251.485	249.282	246.721	17.2	-1.9	-1.0
Private transportation		248.783	248.765	247.022	18.4	-0.7	-0.7
New and used motor vehicles(3)		121.095	119.949	118.358	15.8	-2.3	-1.3
New vehicles		160.029	160.827	161.638	7.9	1.0	0.5
New cars and trucks(3)(4)		111.174	111.723	112.270	7.9	1.0	0.5
New cars(4)			158.469	159.196	7.3		0.5
Used cars and trucks		191.889	189.367	182.374	24.8	-5.0	-3.7
Motor fuel		315.205	321.517	320.510	39.1	1.7	-0.3
Gasoline (all types)		314.438	320.704	319.671	39.1	1.7	-0.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)		311.203	317.473	316.337	39.9	1.6	-0.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)		300.051	306.023	305.294	36.9	1.7	-0.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)		307.334	313.192	312.584	35.9	1.7	-0.2
Motor vehicle insurance(6)		838.731	820.964	817.470	5.0	-2.5	-0.4
Medical Care		541.222	542.553	543.062	0.0	0.3	0.1
Medical care commodities		417.940	417.318	417.893	-2.1	0.0	0.1
Medical care services		579.341	581.285	581.774	0.5	0.4	0.1
Professional services		377.271	378.388	378.333	3.1	0.3	0.0
Recreation(3)		120.253	121.615	121.185	5.3	0.8	-0.4
Education and communication(3)		140.400	140.721	142.224	1.3	1.3	1.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)		1,514.781	1,528.969	1,559.456	3.2	2.9	2.0
Other goods and services		476.463	476.138	476.856	4.3	0.1	0.2
Commodity and Service Group							
All Items		289.863	290.393	291.053	5.3	0.4	0.2

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-		
	Historical data	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
Commodities		206.153	207.313	207.778	8.6	0.8	0.2
Commodities less food & beverages		164.187	165.508	165.499	11.5	0.8	0.0
Nondurables less food & beverages		210.323	212.392	213.264	12.7	1.4	0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel		277.022	279.061	279.288	15.5	0.8	0.1
Durables		120.895	121.638	121.093	10.2	0.2	-0.4
Services		366.763	366.581	367.423	3.3	0.2	0.2
Rent of shelter(2)		388.466	389.465	390.728	3.0	0.6	0.3
Transportation services		334.006	319.961	315.690	6.5	-5.5	-1.3
Other services		374.008	375.390	377.355	3.4	0.9	0.5
Special aggregate indexes:							
All items less medical care		278.336	278.830	279.495	5.7	0.4	0.2
All items less food		289.763	290.295	290.794	5.4	0.4	0.2
All items less shelter		260.495	260.868	261.325	6.6	0.3	0.2
Commodities less food		168.452	169.787	169.825	11.1	0.8	0.0
Nondurables		250.584	251.941	253.200	8.0	1.0	0.5
Nondurables less food		215.310	217.345	218.277	11.9	1.4	0.4
Nondurables less food and apparel		276.448	278.422	278.807	14.1	0.9	0.1
Services less rent of shelter(2)		380.216	378.514	378.916	3.8	-0.3	0.1
Services less medical care services		351.909	351.586	352.450	3.7	0.2	0.2
Energy		309.105	313.100	313.295	25.1	1.4	0.1
All items less energy		290.999	291.298	291.996	4.1	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy		291.746	292.007	292.537	4.0	0.3	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities		152.531	153.360	153.479	6.6	0.6	0.1
Energy commodities		320.517	326.880	326.102	38.8	1.7	-0.2
Services less energy services		372.581	372.354	373.158	3.1	0.2	0.2

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.