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Consumer Price Index, San Diego Area – March 2022

Area prices were up 2.1 percent over the past two months, up 7.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Diego area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 2.1 percent for the two months ending in March 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the March increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 7.9 percent. (See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices advanced 9.7 percent. Energy prices jumped 35.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 5.6 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Diego-Carlsbad, CA, March 2019–March 2022

Month	All items	All items less food and energy
Mar 2019	2.2	2.2
May 2019	3.8	4.1
Jul 2019	1.4	1.4
Sep 2019	1.7	2.1
Nov 2019	2.6	2.2
Jan 2020	2.3	2.1
Mar 2020	1.8	1.8
May 2020	0.3	0.9
Jul 2020	2.1	2.5
Sep 2020	1.1	1.5
Nov 2020	1.6	2.2
Jan 2021	1.7	1.5
Mar 2021	4.1	3.2
May 2021	5.3	4.3
Jul 2021	6.0	4.4
Sep 2021	6.5	4.7
Nov 2021	6.6	4.5
Jan 2022	8.2	6.0
Mar 2022	7.9	5.6

Food

Food prices increased 1.1 percent for the two months ending in March. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home increased 3.3 percent led by higher prices for dairy and related products (9.1 percent). Prices for food away from home decreased 1.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 9.7 percent. Prices for food at home jumped 10.0 percent since a year ago influenced by higher prices for cereals and bakery products (14.2 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 9.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index jumped 12.9 percent for the two months ending in March. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (23.6 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, while prices for natural gas service fell 11.9 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 35.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (46.4 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 20.9 percent, and prices for natural gas service rose 12.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for recreation (4.5 percent), household furnishings and operations (2.5 percent), and shelter (1.1 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-5.1 percent) and education and communication (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 5.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included used cars and trucks (33.8 percent), recreation (8.1 percent), and shelter (5.7 percent).

Table A. San Diego-Carlsbad, CA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January	0.6	2.6	0.3	2.3	0.4	1.7	2.0	8.2
March	0.5	2.2	0.0	1.8	2.4	4.1	2.1	7.9
May	1.0	3.8	-0.4	0.3	0.7	5.3		
July	-0.3	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.1	6.0		
September	0.6	1.7	-0.4	1.1	0.1	6.5		
November	0.2	2.6	0.6	1.6	0.7	6.6		

The May 2022 Consumer Price Index for the San Diego area is scheduled to be released on June 10, 2022.

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 San Diego-Carlsbad, CA metropolitan area includes San Diego County in California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods San Diego-Carlsbad (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Mar. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022
Expenditure category							
All items		332.990	-	339.852	7.9	2.1	-
All items (1967=100)		1,125.942	-	1,149.144	-	-	-
Food and beverages		300.803	-	304.398	9.1	1.2	-
Food		299.586	-	302.758	9.7	1.1	-
Food at home		258.043	261.146	266.660	10.0	3.3	2.1
Cereals and bakery products		304.170	-	321.331	14.2	5.6	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs		281.539	-	280.300	6.7	-0.4	-
Dairy and related products		190.294	-	207.524	9.7	9.1	-
Fruits and vegetables		278.612	-	287.894	9.4	3.3	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)		293.836	-	297.646	9.3	1.3	-
Other food at home		238.258	-	248.690	11.0	4.4	-
Food away from home		355.765	-	350.255	9.3	-1.5	-
Alcoholic beverages		302.434	-	310.468	3.6	2.7	-
Housing		388.707	-	392.844	6.2	1.1	-
Shelter		436.746	440.520	441.681	5.7	1.1	0.3
Rent of primary residence(2)		431.709	433.414	435.388	5.0	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)		461.762	463.295	464.350	4.6	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)		461.762	463.295	464.350	4.6	0.6	0.2
Fuels and utilities		449.347	-	442.879	14.5	-1.4	-
Household energy		451.519	441.479	440.427	19.2	-2.5	-0.2
Energy services		446.094	435.904	433.798	18.9	-2.8	-0.5
Electricity		434.562	434.562	434.562	20.9	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service		341.219	307.536	300.576	12.3	-11.9	-2.3
Household furnishings and operations		200.147	-	205.181	4.3	2.5	-
Apparel		176.236	-	167.162	2.2	-5.1	-
Transportation		274.672	-	295.251	18.9	7.5	-
Private transportation		272.627	-	290.372	22.2	6.5	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)		132.950	-	134.800	18.2	1.4	-
New vehicles(1)		247.010	-	246.933	1.1	0.0	-
Used cars and trucks(1)		342.618	-	340.478	33.8	-0.6	-
Motor fuel		367.249	375.087	454.330	46.6	23.7	21.1
Gasoline (all types)		366.923	374.659	453.547	46.4	23.6	21.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)		380.301	388.467	471.073	47.2	23.9	21.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)		319.575	325.968	392.350	44.2	22.8	20.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)		373.643	380.926	457.920	43.6	22.6	20.2
Medical care		526.359	-	531.954	0.9	1.1	-
Recreation(3)		169.615	-	177.289	8.1	4.5	-
Education and communication(3)		140.022	-	139.394	2.7	-0.4	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)		1,608.239	-	1,608.448	3.5	0.0	-
Other goods and services		452.146	-	454.015	3.0	0.4	-
Commodity and service group							
All items		332.990	-	339.852	7.9	2.1	-
Commodities		234.316	-	240.740	12.2	2.7	-
Commodities less food & beverages		199.412	-	206.861	14.7	3.7	-
Nondurables less food & beverages		234.789	-	251.503	17.7	7.1	-
Durables		161.898	-	161.780	11.4	-0.1	-
Services		418.637	-	425.688	5.4	1.7	-

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 San Diego-Carlsbad (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Mar. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less medical care		323.801	-	330.677	8.4	2.1	-
All items less shelter		291.702	-	299.379	9.2	2.6	-
Commodities less food		204.030	-	211.537	13.8	3.7	-
Nondurables		269.193	-	279.613	12.8	3.9	-
Nondurables less food		241.343	-	257.510	16.0	6.7	-
Services less rent of shelter(2)		419.044	-	429.484	5.4	2.5	-
Services less medical care services		405.709	-	412.553	5.8	1.7	-
Energy		392.716	394.056	443.558	35.9	12.9	12.6
All items less energy		332.549	-	337.007	6.2	1.3	-
All items less food and energy		339.586	-	344.288	5.6	1.4	-

Footnotes
(1) Indexes on a November 1977=100 base.
(2) Indexes on a November 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.
- Data not available
NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.