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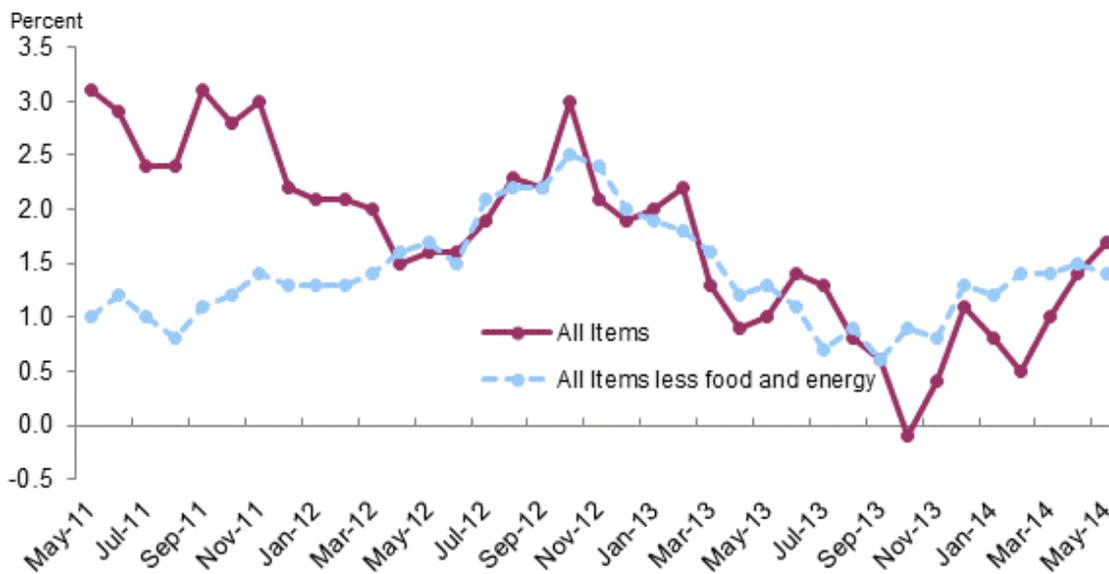
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, LOS ANGELES AREA – MAY 2014

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 1.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.4 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the May increase was influenced by higher prices for electricity and to a lesser extent natural gas service. (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 advanced 1.7 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices increased 3.2 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent since May 2013.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, May 2011–May 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.3 percent for the month of May. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home and food away from home both advanced 0.3 percent for the month.

Over the year, food prices increased 2.5 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.6 percent, and prices for food at home advanced 2.3 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index moved up 4.7 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (20.9 percent). Prices for natural gas service jumped 11.5 percent, but prices for gasoline declined 1.0 percent in May.

Energy prices increased 3.2 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (3.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 12.5 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 0.6 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched down 0.1 percent in May. Lower prices for apparel (-3.1 percent), other goods and services (-0.7 percent), and recreation (-0.4 percent) were partially offset by higher prices for medical care (0.7 percent), household furnishings and operations (0.2 percent), and shelter (0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (1.9 percent) and medical care (1.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in household furnishings and operations (-1.2 percent).

Table A. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Monthly	Annual										
January	0.5	-0.1	0.4	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8
February	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5
March	0.0	-1.0	0.4	1.9	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0
April	0.1	-1.3	0.2	1.9	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4
May	0.4	-1.8	0.2	1.8	0.0	3.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7
June	0.6	-2.2	-0.2	0.9	-0.4	2.9	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	-	-
July	0.0	-2.6	0.1	0.9	-0.4	2.4	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	-	-
August	0.2	-1.7	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.4	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-	-
September	0.3	-1.0	-0.1	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	-	-
October	0.0	-0.4	0.3	0.7	0.0	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-	-
November	-0.4	0.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.1	3.0	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-	-
December	-0.3	1.8	0.3	1.3	-0.5	2.2	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-	-

CPI-W

In May, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 236.647, up 0.4 percent from April. The CPI-W increased 1.8 percent over the year.

The June 2014 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on July 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. (PDT).

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 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total 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 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the *BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

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 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties in the State of California.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the San Francisco Information Office at (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Mar. 2014	Apr. 2014	May 2014	May 2013	Mar. 2014	Apr. 2014
Expenditure category						
All items	242.491	242.437	243.362	1.7	0.4	0.4
All items (1967=100)	716.425	716.265	718.998	-	-	-
Food and beverages	241.915	242.866	243.744	2.3	.8	.4
Food	242.032	243.144	243.937	2.5	.8	.3
Food at home	251.515	253.551	254.395	2.3	1.1	.3
Food away from home	226.581	226.503	227.220	2.6	.3	.3
Alcoholic beverages	225.955	224.900	226.753	.1	.4	.8
Housing	258.594	256.138	258.843	1.8	.1	1.1
Shelter	289.550	290.024	290.233	1.9	.2	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	301.876	302.196	302.593	2.4	.2	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	301.915	302.365	302.723	1.8	.3	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	301.907	302.351	302.717	1.8	.3	.1
Fuels and utilities	296.744	267.838	297.956	4.0	.4	11.2
Household energy	272.067	232.486	273.443	3.0	.5	17.6
Energy services ¹	270.473	230.649	271.951	2.9	.5	17.9
Electricity ¹	304.615	251.492	304.107	-6	-2	20.9
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	234.611	215.097	239.841	12.5	2.2	11.5
Household furnishings and operations	119.477	117.644	117.896	-1.2	-1.3	.2
Apparel	116.411	117.352	113.744	1.0	-2.3	-3.1
Transportation	214.565	218.982	218.686	1.7	1.9	-.1
Private transportation	208.945	212.787	211.998	1.5	1.5	-.4
Motor fuel	312.780	328.506	325.394	3.6	4.0	-.9
Gasoline (all types)	306.041	321.484	318.417	3.3	4.0	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	307.844	323.691	320.490	3.4	4.1	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	288.571	302.707	301.239	3.6	4.4	-.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	287.780	301.012	297.861	2.6	3.5	-1.0
Medical care	417.597	410.183	413.226	1.9	-1.0	.7
Recreation ⁵	105.066	105.801	105.343	1.4	.3	-.4
Education and communication ⁵	145.109	145.520	145.428	1.3	.2	-.1
Other goods and services	375.490	380.011	377.429	1.4	.5	-.7
Commodity and service group						
All items	242.491	242.437	243.362	1.7	.4	.4
Commodities	181.498	183.095	182.430	.6	.5	-.4
Commodities less food and beverages	148.042	149.847	148.551	-.5	.3	-.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	197.588	201.728	199.259	.7	.8	-1.2
Durables	99.798	99.394	99.213	-2.3	-.6	-.2
Services	295.801	294.129	296.589	2.3	.3	.8
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	234.657	234.848	235.695	1.7	.4	.4
All items less shelter	221.974	221.692	222.926	1.6	.4	.6
Commodities less food	151.740	153.469	152.263	-.5	.3	-.8
Nondurables	221.736	224.427	223.508	1.5	.8	-.4
Nondurables less food	201.397	205.247	203.029	.6	.8	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter ²	312.935	308.087	314.163	2.9	.4	2.0
Services less medical care services	284.799	283.500	285.913	2.2	.4	.9
Energy	298.499	293.168	306.873	3.2	2.8	4.7
All items less energy	240.297	240.626	240.630	1.6	.1	.0
All items less food and energy	240.322	240.507	240.366	1.4	.0	-.1

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

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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