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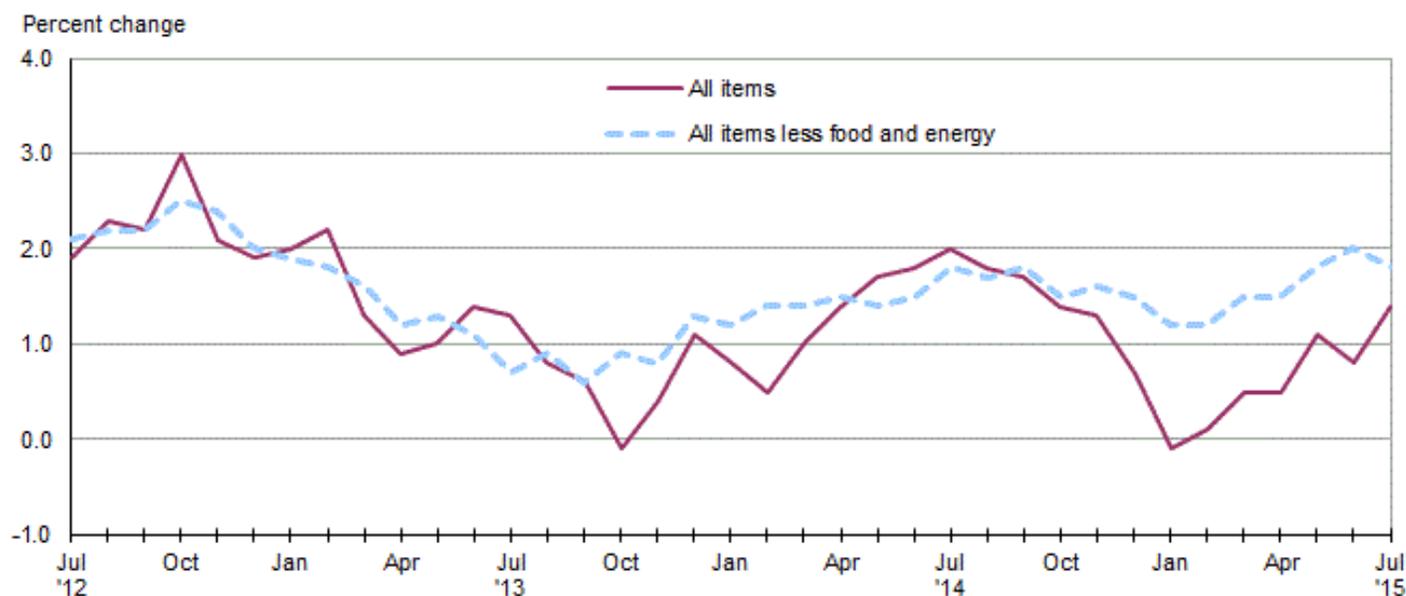
## **Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — July 2015**

**Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past month, up 1.4 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.7 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the July increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (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 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) Energy prices decreased 3.6 percent, influenced by a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.8 percent since July 2014.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, July 2012–July 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

Food prices increased 0.7 percent for the month of July. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 1.1 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.8 percent. Prices for food away from home moved up 2.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 1.2 percent.

## Energy

The energy index increased 6.7 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (10.5 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, while prices for natural gas service moved down 0.2 percent in July.

Energy prices decreased 3.6 percent over the year, influenced by lower prices for gasoline (-2.0 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service dropped 10.5 percent, and prices for electricity decreased 4.3 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in July. Higher prices for medical care (0.6 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.6 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (3.6 percent) and medical care (1.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-2.8 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-2.1 percent).

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

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Monthly	Annual										
January.....	0.4	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1
February.....	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1
March.....	0.4	1.9	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5
April.....	0.2	1.9	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5
May.....	0.2	1.8	0.0	3.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1
June.....	-0.2	0.9	-0.4	2.9	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8
July.....	0.1	0.9	-0.4	2.4	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4
August.....	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.4	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8		
September.....	-0.1	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7		
October.....	0.3	0.7	0.0	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4		
November.....	-0.4	0.7	-0.1	3.0	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3		
December.....	0.3	1.3	-0.5	2.2	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7		

**The August 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on September 16, 2015.**

## 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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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](http://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](http://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: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. 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-		
	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Jul. 2014	May 2015	Jun. 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	246.093	245.459	247.066	1.4	0.4	0.7
All items (1967=100) .....	727.069	725.196	729.944	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	247.443	247.561	249.259	1.8	0.7	0.7
Food .....	247.421	247.716	249.521	1.8	0.8	0.7
Food at home .....	255.264	255.905	258.745	1.2	1.4	1.1
Food away from home .....	233.981	233.832	234.295	2.6	0.1	0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	232.811	230.789	231.106	2.5	-0.7	0.1
Housing .....	266.349	266.760	267.487	2.4	0.4	0.3
Shelter .....	301.386	302.387	303.424	3.6	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	314.721	315.732	316.908	3.6	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	313.105	314.233	315.254	3.4	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	313.094	314.217	315.232	3.4	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities .....	298.753	293.574	294.852	-3.5	-1.3	0.4
Household energy .....	266.492	259.449	259.298	-6.3	-2.7	-0.1
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	265.255	258.160	258.017	-6.2	-2.7	-0.1
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	306.635	290.713	290.696	-4.3	-5.2	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	215.739	223.994	223.608	-10.5	3.6	-0.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	115.244	115.807	115.233	-2.1	0.0	-0.5
Apparel .....	110.471	108.261	106.516	-2.8	-3.6	-1.6
Transportation .....	213.384	208.484	214.516	-0.2	0.5	2.9
Private transportation .....	207.094	202.136	209.783	-0.2	1.3	3.8
Motor fuel .....	300.219	280.247	309.603	-2.1	3.1	10.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	293.976	274.363	303.245	-2.0	3.2	10.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	295.729	275.591	305.141	-2.1	3.2	10.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	277.528	261.374	284.904	-2.8	2.7	9.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	276.149	258.768	284.780	-1.6	3.1	10.1
Medical care .....	421.132	422.304	424.680	1.9	0.8	0.6
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	103.319	104.313	104.267	-1.0	0.9	0.0
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	146.251	146.030	146.469	1.0	0.1	0.3
Other goods and services .....	380.934	384.949	384.517	1.0	0.9	-0.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	246.093	245.459	247.066	1.4	0.4	0.7
Commodities .....	180.690	178.772	181.321	-0.1	0.3	1.4
Commodities less food & beverages .....	144.559	141.852	144.657	-1.5	0.1	2.0
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	192.392	186.845	193.161	-1.4	0.4	3.4
Durables .....	97.963	97.950	97.431	-1.7	-0.5	-0.5
Services .....	303.635	304.277	304.917	2.3	0.4	0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	238.232	237.543	239.111	1.3	0.4	0.7
All items less shelter .....	222.010	220.669	222.521	0.1	0.2	0.8
Commodities less food .....	148.562	145.855	148.602	-1.3	0.0	1.9
Nondurables .....	221.551	218.607	222.829	0.3	0.6	1.9
Nondurables less food .....	196.920	191.542	197.538	-1.1	0.3	3.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	315.533	315.662	315.729	0.5	0.1	0.0
Services less medical care services .....	293.149	293.747	294.282	2.4	0.4	0.2
Energy .....	288.555	273.440	291.646	-3.6	1.1	6.7
All items less energy .....	244.912	245.324	245.738	1.8	0.3	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 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Jul. 2014	May 2015	Jun. 2015
All items less food and energy .....	244.800	245.236	245.394	1.8	0.2	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) 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.