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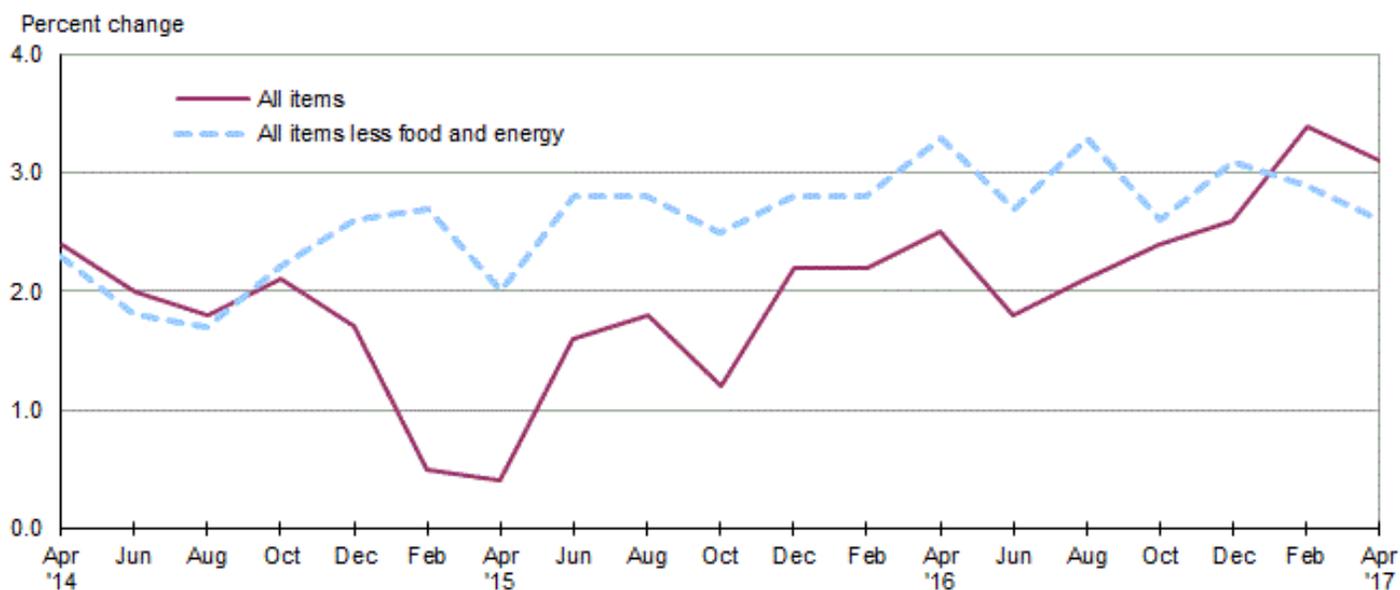
Consumer Price Index, Seattle area — April 2017

Area prices were up 0.8 percent over the past two months, up 3.1 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Seattle Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.8 percent for the two months ending in April 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the April 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 increased 3.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices jumped 13.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Seattle, April 2014–April 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.6 percent for the two months ending in April. (See [table 1](#).) Both food at home and food away from home prices rose 0.6 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.4 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.0 percent since a year ago, while prices for food at home were unchanged.

Energy

The energy index advanced 3.9 percent for the two months ending in April. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.9 percent). Prices for electricity increased 4.1 percent, while prices for natural gas service were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices moved up 13.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (23.8 percent). Prices paid for electricity and natural gas service each increased 3.4 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (2.8 percent), household furnishings and operations (1.4 percent), and shelter (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-1.2 percent) and medical care (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (6.5 percent) and other goods and services (3.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in education and communication (-5.1 percent) and apparel (-4.9 percent).

Table A. Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Bi-monthly	Annual										
February	0.4	2.7	0.8	1.8	0.7	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.2	2.2	1.0	3.4
April	0.9	2.9	0.4	1.2	1.6	2.4	0.9	0.4	1.1	2.5	0.8	3.1
June	0.7	2.7	0.8	1.4	0.4	2.0	1.6	1.6	0.9	1.8		
August	0.3	2.7	0.0	1.1	-0.2	1.8	0.0	1.8	0.3	2.1		
October	0.5	2.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	2.1	-0.3	1.2	0.0	2.4		
December	-1.4	1.4	-0.7	1.3	-1.1	1.7	-0.2	2.2	0.0	2.6		

The June 2017 Consumer Price Index for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton is scheduled to be released on July 14, 2017.

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 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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in the State of Washington.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
Expenditure category						
All items	259.503	-	261.560	3.1	0.8	-
All items (1967=100)	791.065	-	797.336	-	-	-
Food and beverages	263.361	-	264.898	1.5	0.6	-
Food	265.733	-	267.353	1.4	0.6	-
Food at home	247.070	249.135	248.565	0.0	0.6	-0.2
Food away from home	294.503	-	296.316	3.0	0.6	-
Alcoholic beverages	234.344	-	235.004	3.7	0.3	-
Housing	297.036	-	299.840	5.8	0.9	-
Shelter	337.720	336.926	340.260	6.5	0.8	1.0
Rent of primary residence(1)	342.428	343.797	344.915	6.5	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	352.477	353.852	354.830	5.8	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	352.477	353.852	354.830	5.8	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities	261.088	-	266.512	3.6	2.1	-
Household energy	237.005	237.383	244.134	4.1	3.0	2.8
Energy services(1)	280.925	280.925	290.301	3.4	3.3	3.3
Electricity(1)	303.329	303.329	315.770	3.4	4.1	4.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	167.251	167.251	167.251	3.4	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	173.949	-	176.428	2.4	1.4	-
Apparel	124.659	-	128.106	-4.9	2.8	-
Transportation	214.733	-	218.595	5.1	1.8	-
Private transportation	220.711	-	224.642	5.6	1.8	-
Motor fuel	300.672	307.643	314.986	23.8	4.8	2.4
Gasoline (all types)	306.989	314.279	321.894	23.8	4.9	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	332.696	340.650	348.935	23.9	4.9	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	242.573	248.035	253.684	24.5	4.6	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	284.424	290.984	297.967	23.5	4.8	2.4
Medical care	398.649	-	397.176	1.8	-0.4	-
Recreation(5)	94.719	-	95.171	-2.4	0.5	-
Education and communication(5)	134.627	-	133.051	-5.1	-1.2	-
Other goods and services	405.421	-	407.189	3.8	0.4	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	259.503	-	261.560	3.1	0.8	-
Commodities	188.966	-	191.062	2.2	1.1	-
Commodities less food & beverages	152.426	-	154.702	2.7	1.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	181.883	-	185.553	5.8	2.0	-
Durables	122.630	-	123.628	-1.1	0.8	-
Services	325.218	-	327.230	3.5	0.6	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	253.215	-	255.440	3.1	0.9	-
All items less shelter	229.704	-	231.578	1.2	0.8	-
Commodities less food	155.843	-	158.066	2.7	1.4	-
Nondurables	220.915	-	223.585	3.4	1.2	-
Nondurables less food	186.263	-	189.717	5.6	1.9	-
Services less rent of shelter(2)	318.242	-	319.657	0.0	0.4	-
Services less medical care services	317.103	-	319.230	3.8	0.7	-
Energy	274.834	278.390	285.632	13.7	3.9	2.6
All items less energy	261.420	-	262.966	2.4	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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
All items less food and energy	260.935	-	262.470	2.6	0.6	-

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 November 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.