



For Release: Wednesday, March 15, 2017

17-330-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

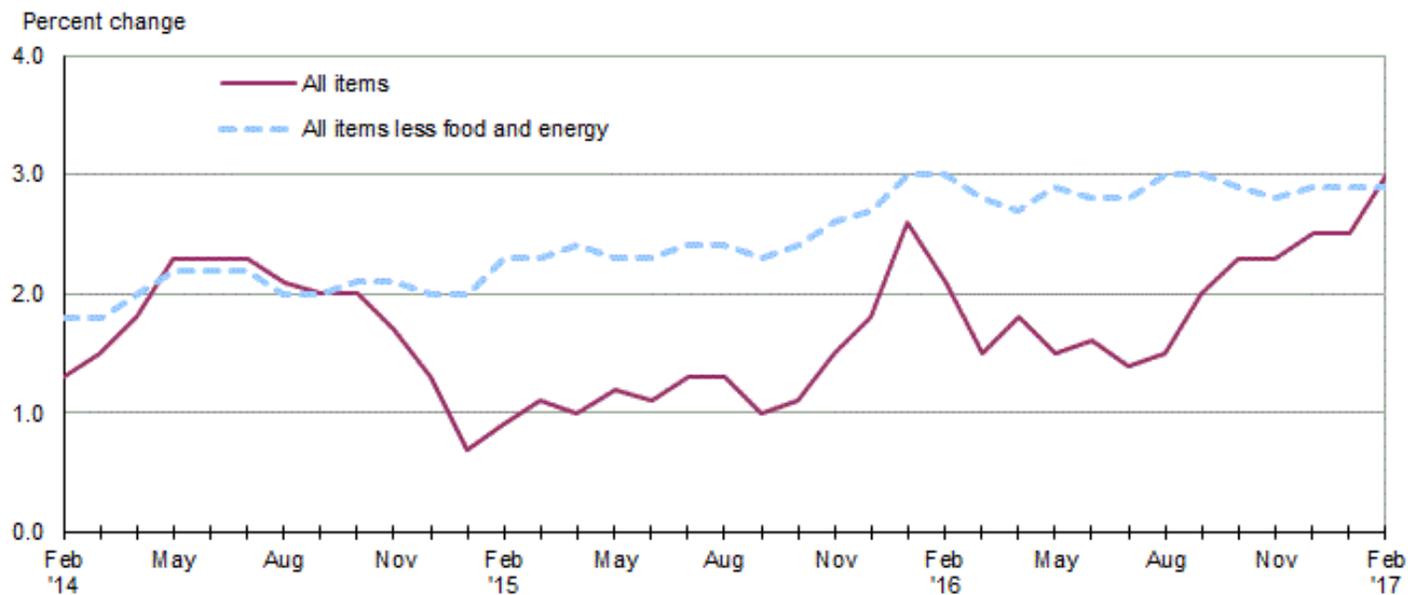
Consumer Price Index, West Region — February 2017

Area prices were up 0.6 percent over the past month, up 3.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.6 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The February increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and apparel. (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 3.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices jumped 12.1 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.9 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, February 2014–February 2017



Food

Food prices rose 0.5 percent for the month of February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home and prices for food away from home rose 0.5 percent each for the same period.

Over the year, food prices inched up 0.2 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.1 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home declined 1.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 0.9 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (1.9 percent). Prices for electricity were virtually unchanged, while prices for natural gas service decreased 0.5 percent in the same period.

Energy prices jumped 12.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (23.1 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 2.2 percent, and prices for natural gas service advanced 0.4 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent in February. Higher prices for apparel (3.9 percent) and shelter (0.6 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for medical care (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.9 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (5.3 percent) and medical care (1.7 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in education and communication (-1.0 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.9 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Monthly	Annual										
January.....	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0
March.....	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5		
April.....	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8		
May.....	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5		
June.....	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6		
July.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4		
August.....	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5		
September.....	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0		
October.....	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3		
November.....	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3		
December.....	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5		

The March 2017 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released April 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 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 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 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-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	249.516	250.814	252.252	3.0	1.1	0.6
All items (December 1977=100).....	403.328	405.426	407.752			
Food and beverages	251.557	252.503	253.665	0.3	0.8	0.5
Food	251.372	252.229	253.451	0.2	0.8	0.5
Food at home	243.848	244.028	245.268	-1.9	0.6	0.5
Food away from home.....	260.818	262.638	263.827	3.1	1.2	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	250.740	252.864	253.216	1.8	1.0	0.1
Housing	270.315	271.486	272.828	4.5	0.9	0.5
Shelter	309.296	310.723	312.523	5.3	1.0	0.6
Rent of primary residence(1).....	326.453	327.754	328.850	5.6	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	325.186	326.607	327.843	5.5	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	325.202	326.630	327.861	5.5	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	285.285	285.742	286.151	2.8	0.3	0.1
Household energy	245.607	244.662	244.239	2.0	-0.6	-0.2
Energy services(1)	247.545	246.089	245.570	1.7	-0.8	-0.2
Electricity(1).....	273.864	272.710	272.386	2.2	-0.5	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	200.425	198.154	197.136	0.4	-1.6	-0.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.283	128.894	129.047	-0.9	0.6	0.1
Apparel	115.540	116.279	120.784	0.9	4.5	3.9
Transportation	196.162	199.001	201.030	5.5	2.5	1.0
Private transportation	190.526	193.345	195.089	6.0	2.4	0.9
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	99.138	99.291	100.007	-0.7	0.9	0.7
New vehicles	148.170	148.786	149.781	1.6	1.1	0.7
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	102.898	103.325	104.024	1.6	1.1	0.7
New cars(4).....	145.548	145.927	146.679	0.3	0.8	0.5
Used cars and trucks.....	131.799	131.723	132.307	-4.2	0.4	0.4
Motor fuel	200.117	210.265	214.221	23.2	7.0	1.9
Gasoline (all types).....	199.133	209.298	213.296	23.1	7.1	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	196.348	206.637	210.460	23.6	7.2	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	191.794	200.136	204.449	21.4	6.6	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	198.147	207.014	211.541	21.4	6.8	2.2
Medical Care	474.889	476.005	474.386	1.7	-0.1	-0.3
Medical care commodities.....	359.850	361.439	362.890	3.3	0.8	0.4
Medical care services.....	511.526	512.451	509.700	1.3	-0.4	-0.5
Professional services	353.054	353.515	353.075	2.2	0.0	-0.1
Recreation(3).....	111.583	112.584	112.937	1.0	1.2	0.3
Education and communication(3).....	137.192	136.460	137.112	-1.0	-0.1	0.5
Other goods and services	411.130	411.956	412.154	1.6	0.2	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	249.516	250.814	252.252	3.0	1.1	0.6
Commodities	176.753	178.141	179.637	1.7	1.6	0.8
Commodities less food & beverages.....	139.812	141.312	142.872	2.6	2.2	1.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	175.707	178.480	181.496	5.9	3.3	1.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	218.214	222.348	224.490	7.8	2.9	1.0
Durables	106.731	107.157	107.494	-1.5	0.7	0.3
Services.....	316.878	318.074	319.440	3.8	0.8	0.4
Rent of shelter(2).....	329.203	330.737	332.665	5.4	1.1	0.6
Transportation services	290.356	292.278	295.116	3.0	1.6	1.0

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-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
Other services	341.731	342.567	343.590	1.2	0.5	0.3
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	239.221	240.525	242.097	3.2	1.2	0.7
All items less food	249.398	250.764	252.238	3.5	1.1	0.6
All items less shelter.....	226.273	227.528	228.826	1.7	1.1	0.6
Commodities less food	143.891	145.419	146.960	2.6	2.1	1.1
Nondurables	213.387	215.340	217.527	2.8	1.9	1.0
Nondurables less food.....	181.085	183.839	186.725	5.6	3.1	1.6
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	220.977	224.928	226.907	7.1	2.7	0.9
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	336.780	337.665	338.443	1.8	0.5	0.2
Services less medical care services.....	303.333	304.543	306.169	4.1	0.9	0.5
Energy	222.722	228.035	230.081	12.1	3.3	0.9
All items less energy	253.565	254.573	255.978	2.5	1.0	0.6
All items less food and energy	254.712	255.749	257.189	2.9	1.0	0.6
Commodities less food and energy commodities	138.161	138.646	139.911	-0.4	1.3	0.9
Energy commodities.....	204.534	215.030	219.042	22.9	7.1	1.9
Services less energy services.....	322.096	323.459	324.947	3.9	0.9	0.5

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) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

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.