



For Release: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

18-1837-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

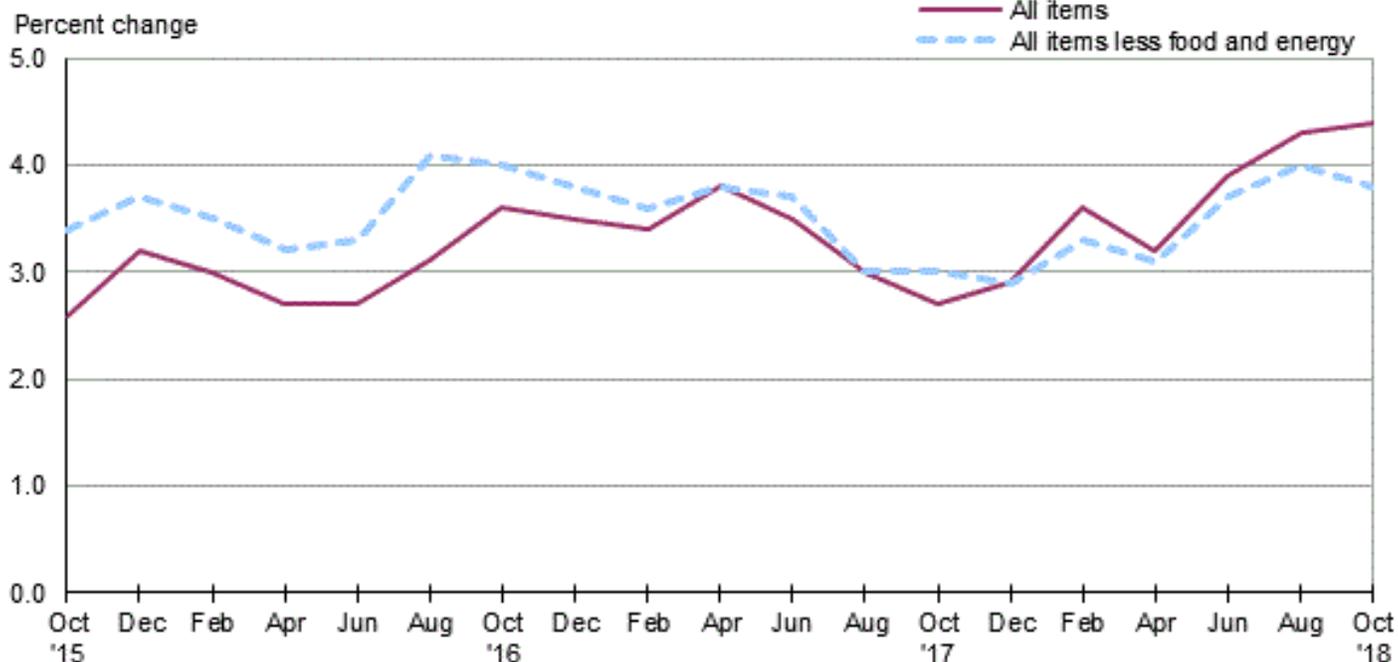
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — October 2018

Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past two months, up 4.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.7 percent for the two months ending in October 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the October increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and education and communication. (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 4.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices jumped 14.2 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.8 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, October 2015–October 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.1 percent for the two months ending in October. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home advanced 0.4 percent, but prices for food at home declined 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 4.7 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 6.4 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 2.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 2.1 percent for the two months ending in October. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.1 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 1.7 percent, but prices for natural gas service dropped 10.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 14.2 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (25.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 2.0 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 7.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.7 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices were noted for apparel (3.5 percent), education and communication (2.2 percent), and shelter (0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 3.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included education and communication (6.7 percent), shelter (3.8 percent), and medical care (3.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-1.9 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Bi-monthly	Annual										
February	1.3	2.4	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.5	0.9	3.0	0.8	3.4	1.4	3.6
April	0.8	2.4	1.2	2.8	1.1	2.4	0.7	2.7	1.1	3.8	0.8	3.2
June	0.5	2.6	0.7	3.0	0.6	2.3	0.6	2.7	0.3	3.5	0.9	3.9
August	0.1	2.0	0.0	3.0	0.3	2.6	0.7	3.1	0.2	3.0	0.6	4.3
October	0.2	1.6	0.5	3.2	0.4	2.6	0.9	3.6	0.6	2.7	0.7	4.4
December	-0.4	2.6	-0.9	2.7	-0.3	3.2	-0.3	3.5	-0.1	2.9		

The December 2018 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward area is scheduled to be released on January 11, 2019.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS introduced a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area was renamed. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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 94 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 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 (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 San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo 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 San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2017	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018
Expenditure category						
All items	287.664	-	289.673	4.4	0.7	-
All items (1967=100)	884.358	-	890.535	-	-	-
Food and beverages	280.249	-	280.826	5.3	0.2	-
Food	278.339	-	278.503	4.7	0.1	-
Food at home	250.727	248.706	249.897	2.6	-0.3	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	259.513	-	257.066	-	-0.9	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	247.451	-	246.113	-	-0.5	-
Dairy and related products	267.722	-	266.719	-	-0.4	-
Fruits and vegetables	325.549	-	332.103	-	2.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	198.443	-	201.587	-	1.6	-
Other food at home	221.976	-	216.582	-	-2.4	-
Food away from home	310.797	-	312.003	6.4	0.4	-
Food away from home	310.797	-	312.003	6.4	0.4	-
Alcoholic beverages	304.532	-	308.605	10.9	1.3	-
Housing	339.571	-	340.845	3.7	0.4	-
Shelter	388.421	388.059	389.814	3.8	0.4	0.5
Rent of primary residence(2)	442.682	442.646	443.964	5.2	0.3	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	416.564	416.599	417.507	3.2	0.2	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	416.564	416.599	417.507	3.2	0.2	0.2
Fuels and utilities	403.866	-	399.718	1.1	-1.0	-
Household energy	356.183	358.982	351.334	-0.5	-1.4	-2.1
Energy services(2)	357.099	359.868	351.971	-0.7	-1.4	-2.2
Electricity(2)	373.069	379.558	379.558	2.0	1.7	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	311.667	305.706	279.604	-7.2	-10.3	-8.5
Household furnishings and operations	136.022	-	138.416	5.3	1.8	-
Apparel	113.911	-	117.912	-1.9	3.5	-
Transportation	204.593	-	206.408	6.9	0.9	-
Private transportation	199.212	-	202.191	9.4	1.5	-
New and used motor vehicles(4)	96.122	-	94.826	-	-1.3	-
New vehicles(1)	159.487	-	156.553	-	-1.8	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	256.799	-	247.988	-	-3.4	-
Motor fuel	273.651	274.578	284.833	25.2	4.1	3.7
Gasoline (all types)	272.614	273.522	283.748	25.3	4.1	3.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	272.770	273.697	284.133	25.3	4.2	3.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	254.060	254.236	262.242	24.2	3.2	3.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	258.266	259.162	268.051	25.0	3.8	3.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	500.310	-	519.535	-	3.8	-
Medical care	508.677	-	510.198	3.3	0.3	-
Recreation(6)	116.092	-	117.987	3.1	1.6	-
Education and communication(6)	148.682	-	151.974	6.7	2.2	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,787.966	-	1,834.544	-	2.6	-
Other goods and services	494.118	-	496.483	6.1	0.5	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	287.664	-	289.673	4.4	0.7	-
Commodities	191.140	-	192.611	4.6	0.8	-
Commodities less food & beverages	143.146	-	144.999	4.0	1.3	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	190.785	-	195.307	6.5	2.4	-
Durables	97.412	-	96.863	0.0	-0.6	-
Services	368.040	-	370.500	4.3	0.7	-

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 Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2017	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	278.632	-	280.659	4.4	0.7	-
All items less shelter.....	245.933	-	248.281	4.8	1.0	-
Commodities less food	149.929	-	151.875	4.6	1.3	-
Nondurables	236.807	-	239.372	5.7	1.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	199.338	-	203.765	6.9	2.2	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	358.203	-	362.295	5.0	1.1	-
Services less medical care services.....	359.280	-	361.723	4.3	0.7	-
Energy	309.807	311.368	316.237	14.2	2.1	1.6
All items less energy	290.091	-	291.913	3.9	0.6	-
All items less food and energy	292.740	-	294.834	3.8	0.7	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

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

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

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

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

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

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