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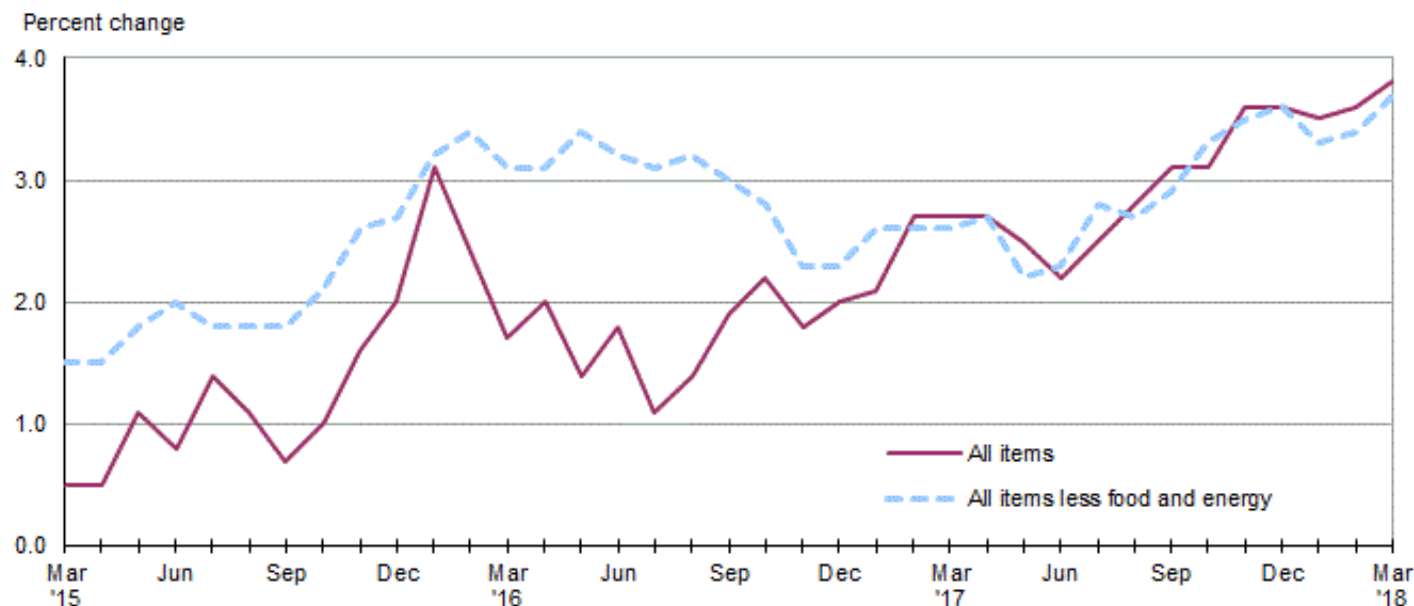
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — March 2018

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 3.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.4 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the March 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 rose 3.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices rose 9.8 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, March 2015–March 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 0.4 percent for the month of March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 0.6 percent, and prices for food away from home moved up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.6 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 3.9 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home decreased 0.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 0.9 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (2.0 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, while prices for natural gas service declined 4.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices rose 9.8 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (14.4 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 4.1 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 4.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.4 percent in March. Higher prices for apparel (3.1 percent), medical care (1.0 percent), and shelter (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-0.7 percent) and education and communication (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included other goods and services (9.2 percent) and shelter (4.5 percent).

Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	3.1	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5
February.....	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	2.4	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6
March.....	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.7	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8
April.....	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5	0.2	2.0	0.2	2.7		
May.....	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.5		
June.....	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8	0.1	1.8	-0.2	2.2		
July.....	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.5		
August.....	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.1	0.0	1.4	0.3	2.8		
September.....	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7	-0.4	0.7	0.2	1.9	0.4	3.1		
October.....	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.0	0.4	2.2	0.4	3.1		
November.....	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.8	0.1	3.6		
December.....	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7	-0.1	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	3.6		

The April 2018 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area is scheduled to be released on May 10, 2018.

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, Los Angeles and Riverside have separate indexes. The first indexes using the new structure are published for the first time this month. 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 93 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 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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in the State of California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
Expenditure category						
All items.....	261.235	263.012	264.158	3.8	1.1	0.4
All items (1967=100).....	771.805	777.054	780.441	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	258.138	257.405	258.222	1.4	0.0	0.3
Food.....	258.479	257.827	258.777	1.6	0.1	0.4
Food at home.....	255.732	253.747	255.143	-0.4	-0.2	0.6
Cereals and bakery products.....	263.402	258.340	264.806	-	0.5	2.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	271.815	272.744	273.788	-	0.7	0.4
Dairy and related products.....	240.294	240.785	240.792	-	0.2	0.0
Fruits and vegetables.....	358.881	347.056	340.905	-	-5.0	-1.8
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	255.489	256.499	256.945	-	0.6	0.2
Other food at home.....	201.936	201.782	206.279	-	2.2	2.2
Food away from home.....	257.892	258.638	259.111	3.9	0.5	0.2
Food away from home.....	257.892	258.638	259.111	3.9	0.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	237.846	236.063	235.057	-0.3	-1.2	-0.4
Housing.....	294.365	295.865	297.597	4.1	1.1	0.6
Shelter.....	337.756	339.782	342.368	4.5	1.4	0.8
Rent of primary residence(2).....	357.733	357.582	360.197	4.8	0.7	0.7
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	352.125	353.332	355.109	4.7	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	352.105	353.312	355.088	4.7	0.8	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	313.724	316.214	313.553	3.5	-0.1	-0.8
Household energy.....	266.805	269.354	266.350	2.1	-0.2	-1.1
Energy services(2).....	265.389	268.008	264.960	2.0	-0.2	-1.1
Electricity(2).....	314.299	314.409	314.409	4.1	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	200.712	208.717	199.139	-4.3	-0.8	-4.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	118.382	117.688	117.664	1.0	-0.6	0.0
Apparel.....	106.168	111.522	115.021	2.5	8.3	3.1
Transportation.....	207.120	210.627	210.389	6.3	1.6	-0.1
Private transportation.....	203.649	206.780	207.223	7.3	1.8	0.2
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	92.284	92.700	91.964	-	-0.3	-0.8
New vehicles(1).....	173.186	170.211	168.677	-	-2.6	-0.9
Used cars and trucks(1).....	263.759	266.071	269.645	-	2.2	1.3
Motor fuel.....	251.952	262.851	267.930	14.5	6.3	1.9
Gasoline (all types).....	246.027	256.766	261.783	14.4	6.4	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	246.393	257.233	262.317	14.4	6.5	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	236.181	246.483	251.497	14.6	6.5	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	235.448	245.261	249.697	14.0	6.1	1.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	737.507	748.204	748.204	-	1.5	0.0
Medical care.....	475.556	474.901	479.468	2.9	0.8	1.0
Recreation(6).....	108.296	108.050	107.255	0.9	-1.0	-0.7
Education and communication(6).....	144.444	144.182	143.910	1.3	-0.4	-0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,776.469	1,775.997	1,775.997	-	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services.....	415.821	426.575	426.264	9.2	2.5	-0.1
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	261.235	263.012	264.158	3.8	1.1	0.4
Commodities.....	179.512	180.711	181.734	3.2	1.2	0.6
Commodities less food & beverages.....	138.262	140.115	141.151	4.4	2.1	0.7
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	184.089	189.149	192.270	8.2	4.4	1.7
Durables.....	93.529	92.618	91.866	-1.8	-1.8	-0.8
Services.....	333.995	336.286	337.544	4.1	1.1	0.4

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-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	251.922	253.782	254.794	3.8	1.1	0.4
All items less shelter.....	227.716	229.387	229.885	3.3	1.0	0.2
Commodities less food	142.606	144.387	145.383	4.2	1.9	0.7
Nondurables	222.297	224.821	226.959	4.6	2.1	1.0
Nondurables less food.....	189.529	194.286	197.226	7.6	4.1	1.5
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	337.635	340.340	339.702	3.4	0.6	-0.2
Services less medical care services.....	321.939	324.337	325.325	4.3	1.1	0.3
Energy	258.934	266.998	269.295	9.8	4.0	0.9
All items less energy	263.457	264.830	265.909	3.4	0.9	0.4
All items less food and energy	264.641	266.332	267.434	3.7	1.1	0.4

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) Index is 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.