

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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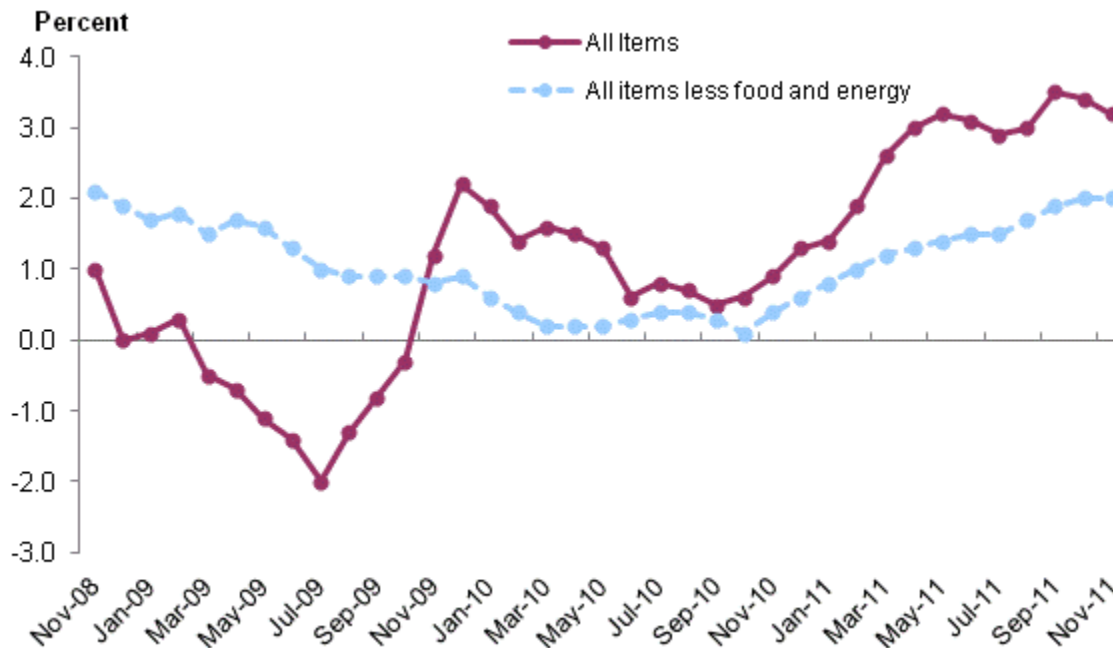
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, WEST REGION – NOVEMBER 2011

AREA PRICES WERE DOWN 0.2 PERCENT OVER THE PAST MONTH, UP 3.2 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged down 0.2 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the November decrease was influenced by lower prices for electricity 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 rose 3.2 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices jumped 13.4 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent since November 2010.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West Region, November 2008 – November 2011



Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of November. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home decreased 0.4 percent and prices for food away from home increased 0.6 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.5 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 5.8 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home were up 2.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 2.5 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for electricity (-3.7 percent). Prices for gasoline were 1.7 percent lower, and prices for natural gas service decreased 6.8 percent in November.

Energy prices jumped 13.4 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (20.9 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 2.4 percent, and prices for natural gas service rose 0.4 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in November. Higher prices for recreation (0.4 percent), new vehicles (0.3 percent), and other goods and services (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for used cars and trucks (-2.0 percent), apparel (-0.5 percent), and education and communication (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (4.7 percent) and medical care (3.1 percent).

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

Month	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.9	3.7	0.8	3.0	0.5	3.8	0.6	0.1	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.4
February	0.5	3.6	0.6	3.1	0.3	3.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	1.4	0.6	1.9
March	0.5	3.4	0.9	3.4	1.0	3.7	0.1	-0.5	0.3	1.6	0.9	2.6
April	0.7	3.4	0.6	3.3	0.4	3.5	0.3	-0.7	0.2	1.5	0.6	3.0
May	0.8	4.1	0.5	3.0	0.7	3.7	0.3	-1.1	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.2
June	-0.2	4.2	-0.2	3.0	0.9	4.9	0.6	-1.4	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.1
July	0.1	4.1	-0.1	2.8	0.4	5.3	-0.2	-2.0	0.1	0.8	-0.1	2.9
August	0.4	4.0	-0.1	2.4	-0.5	4.9	0.2	-1.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0
September	0.1	3.0	0.2	2.5	-0.3	4.3	0.2	-0.8	-0.1	0.5	0.4	3.5
October	-0.3	2.2	0.5	3.3	-0.5	3.3	0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.0	3.4
November	-0.4	2.4	0.5	4.2	-1.8	1.0	-0.3	1.2	0.0	0.9	-0.2	3.2
December	0.0	3.1	-0.1	4.1	-1.1	0.0	-0.2	2.2	0.2	1.3	-	-

CPI-W

In November, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 223.785, down 0.2 percent from October. The CPI-W increased 3.5 percent over the year.

The December 2011 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on January 19, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (PST).

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 25,000 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; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the San Francisco Information Office at (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

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—		
	Sep. 2011	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Nov. 2010	Sep. 2011	Oct. 2011
Expenditure category						
All items	229.147	229.195	228.771	3.2	-0.2	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	370.404	370.481	369.796	-	-	-
Food and beverages	232.305	232.492	232.514	4.1	.1	.0
Food	232.147	232.328	232.345	4.5	.1	.0
Food at home	235.975	235.362	234.363	5.8	-.7	-.4
Food away from home	225.717	226.958	228.336	2.7	1.2	.6
Alcoholic beverages	231.013	231.291	231.387	-.8	.2	.0
Housing	229.487	229.801	229.244	1.8	-.1	-.2
Shelter	255.965	256.443	256.697	1.7	.3	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	263.100	264.418	265.453	2.4	.9	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	269.553	270.086	270.602	1.5	.4	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	269.579	270.108	270.619	1.5	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities	252.282	251.752	244.240	3.3	-3.2	-3.0
Household energy	228.826	228.459	218.890	2.2	-4.3	-4.2
Energy services ¹	230.600	230.015	219.873	1.9	-4.7	-4.4
Electricity ¹	250.358	250.839	241.639	2.4	-3.5	-3.7
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	197.918	194.587	181.288	.4	-8.4	-6.8
Household furnishings and operations	128.759	128.920	128.957	.8	.2	.0
Apparel	117.140	118.991	118.372	4.7	1.1	-.5
Transportation	215.129	213.771	212.688	7.2	-1.1	-.5
Private transportation	209.146	207.889	206.737	7.5	-1.2	-.6
New and used motor vehicles ³	100.722	100.255	99.812	2.7	-.9	-.4
New vehicles	141.554	141.911	142.406	3.3	.6	.3
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	98.226	98.492	98.848	3.3	.6	.4
New cars ⁴	143.417	143.679	144.164	4.0	.5	.3
Used cars and trucks	148.970	146.111	143.238	3.1	-3.8	-2.0
Motor fuel	309.836	304.471	299.963	21.0	-3.2	-1.5
Gasoline (all types)	309.104	303.558	298.483	20.9	-3.4	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	308.622	302.918	297.834	21.2	-3.5	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	288.928	284.019	279.457	20.3	-3.3	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	292.388	287.801	282.840	19.7	-3.3	-1.7
Medical care	409.435	411.795	411.757	3.1	.6	.0
Medical care commodities	331.325	330.820	329.952	2.1	-.4	-.3
Medical care services	432.976	436.461	436.764	3.4	.9	.1
Professional services	310.852	311.729	311.938	1.8	.3	.1
Recreation ³	108.669	108.218	108.665	1.4	.0	.4
Education and communication ³	133.674	133.716	133.538	2.0	-.1	-.1
Other goods and services	382.930	382.975	383.597	1.4	.2	.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	229.147	229.195	228.771	3.2	-.2	-.2
Commodities	182.128	181.784	181.173	5.0	-.5	-.3
Commodities less food and beverages	155.097	154.564	153.736	5.5	-.9	-.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	201.003	200.335	198.994	8.5	-1.0	-.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	259.704	257.371	255.533	9.8	-1.6	-.7
Durables	112.922	112.514	112.138	1.2	-.7	-.3
Services	271.805	272.238	272.006	2.1	.1	-.1
Rent of shelter ²	272.230	272.735	273.003	1.8	.3	.1
Transportation services	265.960	266.626	267.367	.8	.5	.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Sep. 2011	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Nov. 2010	Sep. 2011	Oct. 2011
Commodity and service group						
Other services	315.814	315.470	316.391	2.9	0.2	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	220.747	220.712	220.279	3.2	-.2	-.2
All items less food	228.841	228.869	228.376	3.0	-.2	-.2
All items less shelter	219.756	219.623	218.910	3.9	-.4	-.3
Commodities less food	158.295	157.777	156.966	5.2	-.8	-.5
Nondurables	218.159	217.875	217.142	6.3	-.5	-.3
Nondurables less food	203.946	203.323	202.048	7.9	-.9	-.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	256.765	254.656	252.984	8.9	-1.5	-.7
Services less rent of shelter ²	302.232	302.620	301.703	2.5	-.2	-.3
Services less medical care services	260.467	260.739	260.482	2.0	.0	-.1
Energy	276.442	273.262	266.451	13.4	-3.6	-2.5
All items less energy	227.326	227.630	227.711	2.3	.2	.0
All items less food and energy	227.177	227.503	227.594	2.0	.2	.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	141.217	141.270	140.881	1.7	-.2	-.3
Energy commodities	313.452	308.270	303.947	20.9	-3.0	-1.4
Services less energy services	275.100	275.602	276.025	2.1	.3	.2

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.

- Data not available.

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.