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Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – July 2020

Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past two months, up 1.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Riverside area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.7 percent for the two months ending in July 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the July increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.7 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.7 percent over the year. Food prices rose 6.6 percent. Energy prices decreased 5.4 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

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

Over the year, food prices rose 6.6 percent. Prices for food at home increased 7.9 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 5.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 5.7 percent for the two months ending in July. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (13.5 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 0.8 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 3.7 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 5.4 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-16.0 percent). Prices paid for electricity jumped 15.4 percent, and prices for natural gas service jumped 12.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for medical care (2.1 percent), new and used motor vehicles (1.1 percent), and education and communication (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-4.1 percent), household furnishings and operations (-0.3 percent), and shelter (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (6.3 percent) and shelter (3.0 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-8.4 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-3.2 percent).

The September 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside area is scheduled to be released on October 13, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on July 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in July was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.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 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 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Riverside and San Bernardino 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 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	106.899	-	107.640	1.7	0.7	-
Food and beverages	110.430	-	110.783	6.6	0.3	-
Food	111.077	-	111.011	6.6	-0.1	-
Food at home	108.969	110.048	109.270	7.9	0.3	-0.7
Cereals and bakery products	115.875	-	116.199	11.6	0.3	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	104.803	-	108.036	9.0	3.1	-
Dairy and related products	106.880	-	103.481	1.7	-3.2	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	114.581	-	111.362	10.4	-2.8	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	113.766	-	112.022	4.8	-1.5	-
Other food at home	104.172	-	106.548	7.3	2.3	-
Food away from home.....	113.014	-	112.518	5.1	-0.4	-
Alcoholic beverages	98.737	-	107.212	6.1	8.6	-
Housing	110.788	-	110.441	3.7	-0.3	-
Shelter	110.730	110.410	110.560	3.0	-0.2	0.1
Rent of primary residence	111.052	111.201	111.259	4.2	0.2	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences	111.028	110.648	110.760	2.9	-0.2	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence	111.028	110.648	110.760	2.9	-0.2	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	116.975	-	115.268	9.9	-1.5	-
Household energy	117.261	114.193	114.128	14.0	-2.7	-0.1
Energy services.....	117.677	114.556	114.413	14.2	-2.8	-0.1
Electricity	114.621	110.335	110.345	15.4	-3.7	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	129.434	131.214	130.434	12.3	0.8	-0.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	103.024	-	102.735	2.1	-0.3	-
Apparel	96.667	-	92.714	-8.4	-4.1	-
Transportation	96.278	-	100.702	-7.3	4.6	-
Private transportation	97.253	-	102.123	-6.1	5.0	-
New and used motor vehicles	96.735	-	97.758	-3.2	1.1	-
New vehicles	103.193	-	103.427	2.9	0.2	-
Used cars and trucks.....	100.622	-	102.638	-1.4	2.0	-
Motor fuel	89.461	97.264	101.290	-16.1	13.2	4.1
Gasoline (all types).....	89.420	97.343	101.478	-16.0	13.5	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1).....	89.008	97.225	101.372	-16.3	13.9	4.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1).....	91.959	98.773	102.596	-15.2	11.6	3.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1).....	91.088	97.639	101.764	-14.8	11.7	4.2
Motor vehicle insurance	106.331	-	116.349	5.7	9.4	-
Medical care	108.070	-	110.356	6.3	2.1	-
Recreation	102.827	-	103.275	2.7	0.4	-
Education and communication	105.837	-	106.717	1.1	0.8	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care.....	116.209	-	118.434	5.6	1.9	-
Other goods and services	106.982	-	107.798	1.8	0.8	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	106.899	-	107.640	1.7	0.7	-
Commodities	102.778	-	104.650	-0.2	1.8	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	98.259	-	101.019	-4.3	2.8	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	94.503	-	98.454	-8.8	4.2	-
Durables	101.768	-	103.246	1.2	1.5	-
Services.....	109.405	-	109.486	2.9	0.1	-
Special aggregate indexes						

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 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
All items less medical care	106.820	-	107.454	1.4	0.6	-
All items less shelter.....	104.738	-	106.015	1.0	1.2	-
Commodities less food	98.236	-	101.155	-4.0	3.0	-
Nondurables	102.962	-	105.002	-0.8	2.0	-
Nondurables less food.....	94.688	-	98.875	-8.1	4.4	-
Services less rent of shelter	107.563	-	107.998	2.8	0.4	-
Services less medical care services.....	109.274	-	109.153	2.5	-0.1	-
Energy	101.326	104.703	107.068	-5.4	5.7	2.3
All items less energy	107.361	-	107.667	2.4	0.3	-
All items less food and energy	106.789	-	107.156	1.7	0.3	-

Footnotes

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

- Data not available

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