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## **Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – July 2021**

**Area prices were up 1.3 percent over the past two months, up 6.5 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Riverside area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.3 percent for the two months ending in July 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the July increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and new and used motor vehicles. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 6.5 percent. Food prices increased 3.9 percent. Energy prices jumped 26.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 4.9 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

### **Food**

Food prices rose 1.6 percent for the two months ending in July. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home increased 2.4 percent led by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (6.9 percent). Prices for food away from home increased 0.6 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 3.9 percent. Food at home prices, up 4.5 percent, increased in all sub-categories, led by meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (9.7 percent). Since a year ago, prices for food away from home increased 3.2 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index rose 1.5 percent for the two months ending in July. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.4 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 4.3 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 4.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 26.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (37.5 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 14.2 percent, and prices for electricity rose 13.6 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (5.4 percent), education and communication (1.9 percent), and shelter (1.1 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.5 percent) and recreation (-1.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 4.9 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (17.1 percent), household furnishings and operations (6.1 percent), and shelter (3.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in alcoholic beverages (-0.6 percent).

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**The September 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside area is scheduled to be released on October 13, 2021.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on July 2021 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 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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 6,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

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, CA metropolitan area includes Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in 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 2021	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Jul. 2020	May 2021	Jun. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	113.222	-	114.682	6.5	1.3	-
Food and beverages .....	113.154	-	114.876	3.7	1.5	-
Food .....	113.570	-	115.351	3.9	1.6	-
Food at home .....	111.509	112.960	114.183	4.5	2.4	1.1
Cereals and bakery products .....	115.684	-	119.875	3.2	3.6	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	110.865	-	118.483	9.7	6.9	-
Dairy and related products .....	106.629	-	108.333	4.7	1.6	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	114.267	-	114.204	2.6	-0.1	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	114.824	-	115.090	2.7	0.2	-
Other food at home .....	108.560	-	109.189	2.5	0.6	-
Food away from home.....	115.439	-	116.163	3.2	0.6	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	105.978	-	106.547	-0.6	0.5	-
Housing .....	114.461	-	115.204	4.3	0.6	-
Shelter .....	113.012	113.486	114.225	3.3	1.1	0.7
Rent of primary residence .....	113.060	113.805	114.534	2.9	1.3	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences .....	113.188	113.564	114.070	3.0	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence.....	113.188	113.564	114.070	3.0	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	128.823	-	126.873	10.1	-1.5	-
Household energy .....	133.081	128.828	129.340	13.3	-2.8	0.4
Energy services.....	133.906	129.703	130.160	13.8	-2.8	0.4
Electricity .....	131.498	125.525	125.387	13.6	-4.6	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service .....	142.813	146.051	148.992	14.2	4.3	2.0
Household furnishings and operations.....	109.231	-	109.019	6.1	-0.2	-
Apparel .....	101.717	-	99.178	7.0	-2.5	-
Transportation .....	118.258	-	123.234	22.4	4.2	-
Private transportation .....	119.617	-	125.090	22.5	4.6	-
New and used motor vehicles .....	108.655	-	114.513	17.1	5.4	-
New vehicles .....	106.155	-	109.450	5.8	3.1	-
Used cars and trucks.....	130.118	-	144.266	40.6	10.9	-
Motor fuel .....	133.260	136.435	139.197	37.4	4.5	2.0
Gasoline (all types).....	133.638	136.783	139.544	37.5	4.4	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1).....	134.094	137.270	140.051	38.2	4.4	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1).....	134.324	137.400	140.177	36.6	4.4	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1).....	131.076	134.098	136.760	34.4	4.3	2.0
Motor vehicle insurance .....	124.119	-	124.119	6.7	0.0	-
Medical care .....	111.334	-	111.171	0.7	-0.1	-
Recreation .....	105.388	-	104.158	0.9	-1.2	-
Education and communication .....	107.417	-	109.439	2.6	1.9	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care.....	118.539	-	119.305	0.7	0.6	-
Other goods and services .....	111.350	-	114.563	6.3	2.9	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	113.222	-	114.682	6.5	1.3	-
Commodities .....	112.504	-	115.009	9.9	2.2	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	112.081	-	115.045	13.9	2.6	-
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	113.273	-	115.722	17.5	2.2	-
Durables .....	110.250	-	113.748	10.2	3.2	-
Services.....	113.743	-	114.594	4.7	0.7	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						

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 2021	Jun. 2021	Jul. 2021	Jul. 2020	May 2021	Jun. 2021
All items less medical care .....	113.353	-	114.925	7.0	1.4	-
All items less shelter .....	113.441	-	115.048	8.5	1.4	-
Commodities less food .....	111.869	-	114.765	13.5	2.6	-
Nondurables .....	113.210	-	115.272	9.8	1.8	-
Nondurables less food .....	112.844	-	115.192	16.5	2.1	-
Services less rent of shelter .....	114.718	-	115.055	6.5	0.3	-
Services less medical care services .....	113.663	-	114.599	5.0	0.8	-
Energy .....	133.851	133.991	135.842	26.9	1.5	1.4
All items less energy .....	111.402	-	112.816	4.8	1.3	-
All items less food and energy .....	111.085	-	112.440	4.9	1.2	-

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.