

News

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LOS ANGELES CONSUMER PRICES DECLINE 0.5 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area decreased 0.5 percent in September, following a 0.6 percent decrease for August. The annual increase for the year ending September 2008 was 4.5 percent. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that rising prices for transportation and housing provided the greatest contributions to the 12-month gain. The special aggregate energy index fell 6.8 percent in September, but has increased 21.5 percent over the past year. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

Transportation prices in the Los Angeles area declined 3.3 percent in September. However, over the past year, transportation prices increased 9.3 percent. The transportation index comprises about 19 percent of the CPI all items index and accounted for the largest annual increase among the eight major CPI expenditure categories. Within transportation, gasoline prices declined 7.4 percent over the past month, but increased 30.3 percent over the past year.

The housing index, which accounts for about 46 percent of the Los Angeles area's all items index, crept down 0.2 percent in September, but advanced 2.8 percent compared to 12 months ago. Shelter, household fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations are all components of the housing index. Shelter edged down 0.1 percent over the month, but advanced 2.9 percent over the year. Household fuels and utilities dropped 3.6 percent for the month, but advanced 5.1 percent since September 2007. Within household fuels and utilities, prices for utility (piped) gas service index fell 13.8 percent and electricity prices were unchanged in September. Since September 2007, the utility (piped) gas service index jumped 16.4 percent, while electricity prices decreased 2.3 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations advanced 1.5 percent in September and were up 0.3 percent from a year ago.

The Los Angeles area's food and beverages index grew 0.7 percent in September and 5.9 percent over the past 12 months. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, advanced 0.8 percent in September and advanced 7.8 percent from a year ago. Food away from home prices increased 0.7 percent in September and advanced 3.8 percent compared to a year ago. Additionally, prices for alcoholic beverages were unchanged over the past month, but rose 4.0 percent since September 2007.

In September 2008, medical care prices increased 0.7 percent and have advanced 4.4 percent since last year.

Apparel prices jumped 2.4 percent in September. This was the largest monthly increase among the eight major CPI expenditure categories. Compared to a year ago, apparel prices in Los Angeles were 3.9 percent higher.

The Los Angeles area education and communication index grew 0.8 percent in September and advanced 3.9 percent over the past 12 months.

The remaining two major expenditure categories, the recreation and the other goods and services indexes, increased 0.7 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively, in September. Over the past year, recreation prices were up 2.2 percent and other goods and services prices rose 3.5 percent.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, stands at 227.449 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$227.45 in September 2008.

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

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	229.886	228.484	227.449	4.5	-1.1	-0.5
All items (1967=100)	679.184	675.043	671.986	-	-	-
Food and beverages	221.719	222.805	224.393	5.9	1.2	.7
Food	220.667	221.756	223.445	6.0	1.3	.8
Food at home	233.765	235.900	237.775	7.8	1.7	.8
Food away from home	201.985	201.937	203.391	3.8	.7	.7
Alcoholic beverages	223.699	224.683	224.637	4.0	.4	.0
Housing	245.889	245.507	244.984	2.8	-.4	-.2
Shelter	274.526	275.601	275.330	2.9	.3	-.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	276.114	276.586	278.027	4.4	.7	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	285.468	285.879	286.983	3.5	.5	.4
Fuels and utilities	261.016	245.277	236.544	5.1	-9.4	-3.6
Household energy	265.974	243.504	231.228	3.7	-13.1	-5.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	263.542	240.920	228.810	3.1	-13.2	-5.0
Electricity ¹	245.720	243.711	243.727	-2.3	-.8	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	328.477	264.115	227.593	16.4	-30.7	-13.8
Household furnishings and operations	126.516	126.801	128.700	.3	1.7	1.5
Apparel	103.530	107.775	110.365	3.9	6.6	2.4
Transportation	211.117	203.199	196.459	9.3	-6.9	-3.3
Private transportation	203.933	196.026	189.865	9.3	-6.9	-3.1
Motor fuel	350.712	316.158	292.610	30.4	-16.6	-7.4
Gasoline (all types)	343.040	309.155	286.240	30.3	-16.6	-7.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	345.441	311.069	287.594	31.3	-16.7	-7.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	322.649	290.897	269.725	29.3	-16.4	-7.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	323.961	292.509	271.868	28.0	-16.1	-7.1
Medical care	352.498	353.233	355.536	4.4	.9	.7
Recreation ⁵	116.212	115.554	116.394	2.2	.2	.7
Education and communication ⁵	125.396	126.389	127.359	3.9	1.6	.8
Other goods and services	342.884	342.381	342.683	3.5	-.1	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	229.886	228.484	227.449	4.5	-1.1	-.5
Commodities	179.354	176.671	175.288	6.1	-2.3	-.8
Commodities less food and beverages	152.702	148.882	146.554	6.2	-4.0	-1.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	206.321	198.561	193.290	12.9	-6.3	-2.7
Durables	104.312	103.538	103.448	-1.9	-.8	-.1
Services	273.353	273.255	272.594	3.5	-.3	-.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	223.756	222.308	221.187	4.5	-1.1	-.5
All items less shelter	210.498	207.972	206.589	5.5	-1.9	-.7
Commodities less food	156.483	152.710	150.397	6.1	-3.9	-1.5
Nondurables	217.661	213.776	211.525	9.3	-2.8	-1.1
Nondurables less food	210.084	202.637	197.545	12.3	-6.0	-2.5
Services less rent of shelter ²	279.273	277.316	276.025	4.4	-1.2	-.5
Services less medical care services	265.873	265.774	264.987	3.4	-.3	-.3
Energy	324.051	293.375	273.488	21.5	-15.6	-6.8
All items less energy	224.592	225.429	225.834	3.2	.6	.2
All items less food and energy	225.777	226.574	226.771	2.7	.4	.1

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 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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