

# News

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE LOS ANGELES AREA, JULY 2009**  
**Prices Declined 2.6 Percent During the Past Twelve Months**

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, CA area was unchanged in July, following a 0.6 percent increase in June. For the year ending July 2009, overall prices decreased 2.6 percent largely due to falling transportation prices. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the special aggregate index for energy decreased 30.6 percent since July 2008. During this same period the special index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

Transportation prices in the Los Angeles area crept down 0.2 percent in July and gasoline prices declined 1.8 percent. Between July 2008 and July 2009 transportation prices decreased 13.7 percent, dominated by a drop of 35.5 percent in gasoline prices. The transportation index comprises slightly more than 16 percent of the Los Angeles CPI all items index.

The Los Angeles area's food and beverages index declined 0.3 percent in July. Over the past 12 months, prices for food and beverages advanced 0.3 percent. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, decreased 0.9 percent for the month and 1.8 percent for the year. Food away from home prices rose 0.2 percent in July and 2.9 percent from a year ago. Prices for alcoholic beverages increased 0.5 percent over the month and 0.6 percent over the year.

The housing index, which accounts for about 47 percent of the Los Angeles area's all items index edged up 0.1 percent in July, but declined 0.3 percent compared to 12 months ago. Shelter prices inched down 0.1 percent in July, but increased 0.5 percent for the year. Household fuels and utilities increased 1.7 percent for the month, but fell 9.8 percent since July 2008. Within household fuels and utilities, prices for utility (piped) gas service advanced by 1.8 percent, but electricity prices declined 0.2 percent for the month. Since July 2008, the utility (piped) gas service index fell 48.2 percent, but the electricity index increased 6.4 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations inched down 0.2 percent in July, but advanced 1.4 percent from one year ago.

In the Los Angeles area, recreation prices declined 0.6 percent in July and 4.0 percent for the year.

Apparel prices increased 1.2 percent in July and 1.5 percent in the past 12 months. Medical care prices edged up 0.2 percent for the month and 2.8 percent for the year.

Education and communication prices rose 0.8 percent in July and 3.6 percent in the past 12 months. The other goods and services index advanced 1.0 percent for the month and 4.1 percent from one year ago.

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 224.010 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$224.01 in July 2009.

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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—		
	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	July 2008	May 2009	June 2009
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	222.522	223.906	224.010	-2.6	0.7	0.0
All items (1967=100) .....	657.430	661.518	661.824	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	223.850	223.129	222.367	.3	-.7	-.3
Food .....	222.935	222.140	221.264	.3	-.7	-.4
Food at home .....	233.190	231.614	229.455	-1.8	-1.6	-.9
Food away from home .....	207.227	207.281	207.789	2.9	.3	.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	223.619	224.058	225.073	.6	.7	.5
Housing .....	245.426	245.006	245.171	-.3	-.1	.1
Shelter .....	276.159	275.971	275.827	.5	-.1	-.1
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	281.284	281.012	280.749	1.7	-.2	-.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	288.563	288.147	288.082	.9	-.2	.0
Fuels and utilities .....	232.233	231.376	235.376	-9.8	1.4	1.7
Household energy .....	222.813	220.613	221.179	-16.8	-.7	.3
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	223.011	220.186	220.849	-16.2	-1.0	.3
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	273.181	261.912	261.381	6.4	-4.3	-.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	154.300	167.146	170.149	-48.2	10.3	1.8
Household furnishings and operations .....	129.597	128.454	128.233	1.4	-1.1	-.2
Apparel .....	105.645	103.911	105.117	1.5	-.5	1.2
Transportation .....	174.030	182.503	182.178	-13.7	4.7	-.2
Private transportation .....	168.751	177.219	176.517	-13.4	4.6	-.4
Motor fuel .....	194.836	229.353	225.183	-35.8	15.6	-1.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	191.300	225.524	221.367	-35.5	15.7	-1.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	190.428	225.413	221.503	-35.9	16.3	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	182.245	214.064	209.500	-35.1	15.0	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	185.478	216.449	212.290	-34.5	14.5	-1.9
Medical care .....	362.141	361.629	362.226	2.8	.0	.2
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	112.636	112.214	111.542	-4.0	-1.0	-.6
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	128.911	128.888	129.923	3.6	.8	.8
Other goods and services .....	353.758	353.403	356.841	4.1	.9	1.0
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	222.522	223.906	224.010	-2.6	.7	.0
Commodities .....	165.470	168.230	167.726	-6.5	1.4	-.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	134.153	137.944	137.564	-9.9	2.5	-.3
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	165.090	173.520	173.051	-16.1	4.8	-.3
Durables .....	103.057	103.311	103.020	-1.2	.0	-.3
Services .....	272.634	272.619	273.319	.0	.3	.3
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	215.978	217.401	217.489	-2.8	.7	.0
All items less shelter .....	199.044	201.143	201.358	-4.3	1.2	.1
Commodities less food .....	138.057	141.832	141.476	-9.6	2.5	-.3
Nondurables .....	195.357	199.787	199.175	-8.5	2.0	-.3
Nondurables less food .....	170.261	178.424	178.020	-15.3	4.6	-.2
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	274.760	275.020	277.071	-.8	.8	.7
Services less medical care services .....	264.741	264.722	265.412	-.2	.3	.3
Energy .....	205.169	227.555	224.952	-30.6	9.6	-1.1
All items less energy .....	225.738	225.519	225.831	.6	.0	.1
All items less food and energy .....	226.742	226.616	227.124	.6	.2	.2

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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