

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE  
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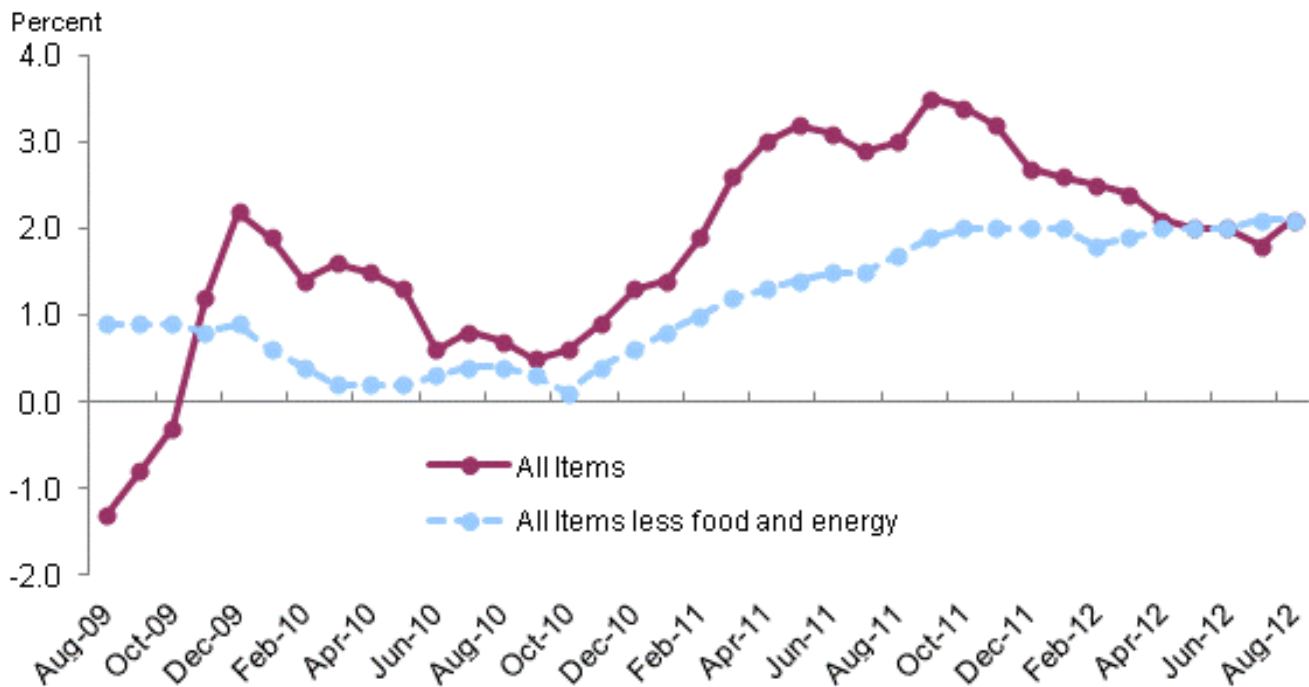
### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, WEST REGION – AUGUST 2012

**Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 2.1 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.5 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the August increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (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 2.1 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices advanced 2.3 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent since August 2011.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West Region, August 2009–August 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Food

Food prices advanced 0.3 percent for the month of August. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home rose 0.4 percent and prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices were up 2.0 percent. Prices for food at home rose 1.1 percent since a year ago and prices for food away from home advanced 3.3 percent.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 3.2 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (5.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service edged up 0.1 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged in August.

Energy prices increased 2.3 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (4.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 1.3 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 7.6 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in August. Higher prices for recreation (0.4 percent), other goods and services (0.4 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-0.4 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (3.9 percent), apparel (3.3 percent), and shelter (2.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in used cars and trucks (-1.7 percent).

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

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.8	3.0	0.5	3.8	0.6	0.1	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6
February	0.6	3.1	0.3	3.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	1.4	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5
March	0.9	3.4	1.0	3.7	0.1	-0.5	0.3	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4
April	0.6	3.3	0.4	3.5	0.3	-0.7	0.2	1.5	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1
May	0.5	3.0	0.7	3.7	0.3	-1.1	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0
June	-0.2	3.0	0.9	4.9	0.6	-1.4	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0
July	-0.1	2.8	0.4	5.3	-0.2	-2.0	0.1	0.8	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8
August	-0.1	2.4	-0.5	4.9	0.2	-1.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1
September	0.2	2.5	-0.3	4.3	0.2	-0.8	-0.1	0.5	0.4	3.5	-	-
October	0.5	3.3	-0.5	3.3	0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.0	3.4	-	-
November	0.5	4.2	-1.8	1.0	-0.3	1.2	0.0	0.9	-0.2	3.2	-	-
December	-0.1	4.1	-1.1	0.0	-0.2	2.2	0.2	1.3	-0.3	2.7	-	-

## CPI-W

In August, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 227.681, up 0.5 percent from July. The CPI-W increased 2.0 percent over the year.

**The September 2012 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on October 16, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (PDT).**

## 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 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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 26,000 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](http://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](http://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—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	232.701	231.893	233.001	2.1	0.1	0.5
All items (December 1977=100) .....	376.149	374.841	376.633	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	235.150	235.071	235.827	2.0	.3	.3
Food .....	234.931	234.845	235.645	2.0	.3	.3
Food at home .....	235.803	235.563	236.589	1.1	.3	.4
Food away from home .....	232.534	232.667	233.140	3.3	.3	.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	234.692	234.721	234.845	1.5	.1	.1
Housing .....	232.888	233.294	233.907	2.0	.4	.3
Shelter .....	260.229	260.710	261.413	2.4	.5	.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	268.886	269.655	270.389	3.1	.6	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	273.621	274.062	274.780	2.1	.4	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	273.633	274.072	274.790	2.1	.4	.3
Fuels and utilities .....	253.721	254.476	256.434	1.4	1.1	.8
Household energy .....	227.563	227.966	228.032	-1.1	.2	.0
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	229.521	230.201	230.210	-9	.3	.0
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	253.851	254.895	254.853	1.3	.4	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	185.785	185.703	185.823	-7.6	.0	.1
Household furnishings and operations .....	129.982	129.911	129.428	-1	-4	-4
Apparel .....	119.036	116.488	116.577	3.3	-2.1	.1
Transportation .....	220.703	215.526	218.676	2.2	-9	1.5
Private transportation .....	214.487	209.161	212.967	2.5	-7	1.8
New and used motor vehicles <sup>3</sup> .....	102.474	102.767	102.427	.9	.0	-3
New vehicles .....	144.304	144.318	144.099	1.7	-1	-2
New cars and trucks <sup>3 4</sup> .....	100.177	100.166	100.023	1.7	-2	-1
New cars <sup>4</sup> .....	145.923	145.707	145.478	1.3	-3	-2
Used cars and trucks .....	149.624	150.209	149.417	-1.7	-1	-5
Motor fuel .....	319.409	297.915	313.367	4.3	-1.9	5.2
Gasoline (all types) .....	318.816	297.067	312.299	4.3	-2.0	5.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>4</sup> .....	318.438	296.153	311.493	4.2	-2.2	5.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>4 5</sup> .....	298.195	279.051	292.951	4.6	-1.8	5.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>4</sup> .....	300.698	282.187	296.232	4.5	-1.5	5.0
Medical care .....	421.702	423.630	424.628	3.9	.7	.2
Medical care commodities .....	335.055	334.668	336.337	1.4	.4	.5
Medical care services .....	448.390	451.163	451.894	4.7	.8	.2
Professional services .....	315.136	316.925	318.059	2.2	.9	.4
Recreation <sup>3</sup> .....	109.553	109.374	109.847	1.4	.3	.4
Education and communication <sup>3</sup> .....	134.196	134.700	135.165	1.6	.7	.3
Other goods and services .....	385.919	387.176	388.599	1.9	.7	.4
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	232.701	231.893	233.001	2.1	.1	.5
Commodities .....	184.389	182.162	183.609	1.5	-4	.8
Commodities less food and beverages .....	157.245	154.156	155.859	1.4	-9	1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	204.211	197.799	201.733	2.5	-1.2	2.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	263.961	254.838	261.469	2.4	-9	2.6
Durables .....	113.636	113.859	113.329	-6	-3	-5
Services .....	276.590	277.179	277.940	2.5	.5	.3
Rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	276.789	277.294	278.029	2.4	.4	.3
Transportation services .....	271.438	270.914	269.685	1.0	-6	-5

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—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
Other services .....	320.094	320.988	322.672	2.8	0.8	0.5
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	223.960	223.049	224.155	2.0	.1	.5
All items less food .....	232.550	231.620	232.781	2.1	.1	.5
All items less shelter .....	223.044	221.683	222.972	2.0	.0	.6
Commodities less food .....	160.486	157.462	159.134	1.4	-.8	1.1
Nondurables .....	221.141	217.623	220.113	2.2	-.5	1.1
Nondurables less food .....	207.185	201.080	204.834	2.5	-1.1	1.9
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	260.923	252.623	258.668	2.3	-.9	2.4
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	307.856	308.623	309.504	2.6	.5	.3
Services less medical care services .....	264.632	265.093	265.849	2.3	.5	.3
Energy .....	281.256	269.356	278.070	2.3	-1.1	3.2
All items less energy .....	230.772	230.859	231.358	2.1	.3	.2
All items less food and energy .....	230.762	230.881	231.326	2.1	.2	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	142.291	141.696	141.555	.5	-.5	-.1
Energy commodities .....	322.806	301.216	316.638	4.1	-1.9	5.1
Services less energy services .....	280.273	280.857	281.670	2.6	.5	.3

<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> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>5</sup> 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.