

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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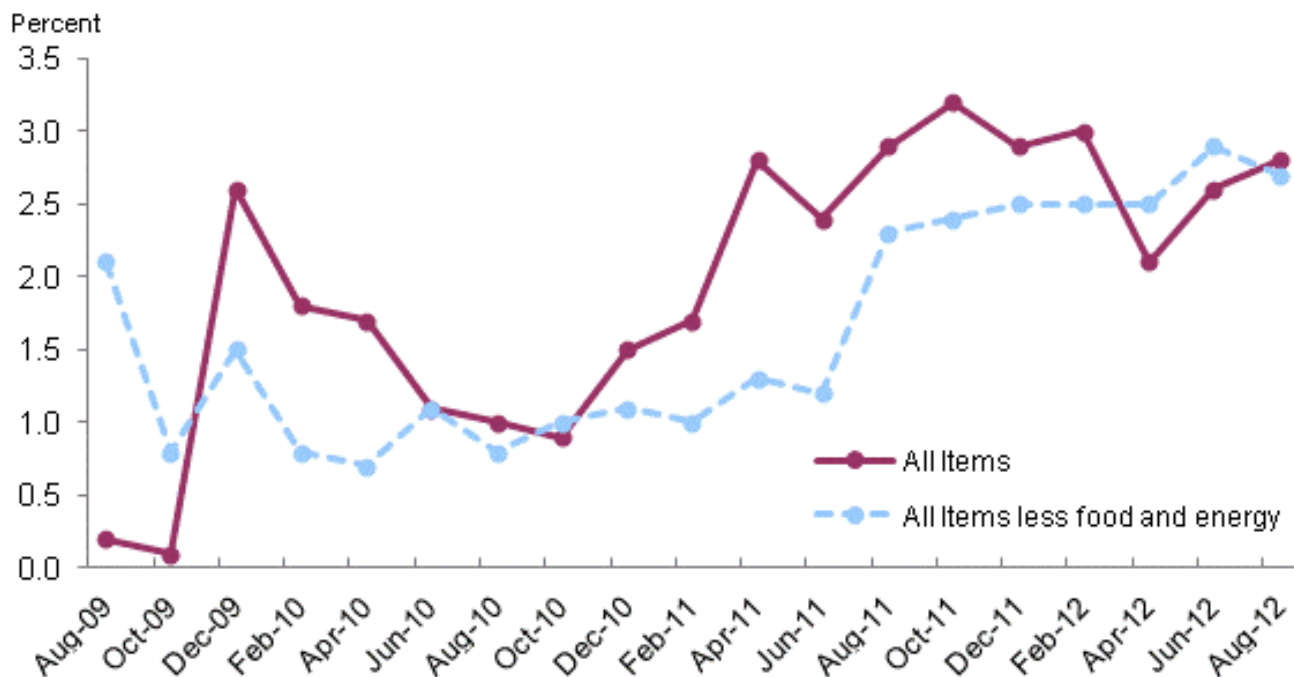
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SAN FRANCISCO AREA – AUGUST 2012

AREA PRICES WERE UP 0.6 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, UP 2.8 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Prices in the greater San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.6 percent for the two months ending August 2012, 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 shelter and gasoline. (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 increased 2.8 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices increased 5.5 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent since August 2011.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco, August 2009–August 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices edged down 0.1 percent from June to August. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home declined 0.7 percent, but prices for food away from home rose 0.7 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 2.3 percent. Prices for food at home rose 0.7 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 4.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.1 percent for the two months ending in August 2012. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (3.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 1.8 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 0.8 percent in August.

Energy prices increased 5.5 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (9.1 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 0.8 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 4.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.6 percent in the latest two month period. Higher prices for medical care (1.2 percent) and shelter (0.7 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (3.6 percent), other goods and services (2.7 percent), and medical care (2.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in education and communication (-0.4 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	1.6	3.2	0.5	2.8	1.7	1.2	0.8	1.8	1.0	1.7	1.1	3.0
April	1.0	3.3	1.1	2.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.7	1.8	2.8	0.9	2.1
June	0.1	3.4	1.4	4.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.1	-0.2	2.4	0.3	2.6
August	0.1	2.6	0.1	4.2	0.0	0.2	-0.1	1.0	0.4	2.9	0.6	2.8
October	0.8	3.3	0.2	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.3	3.2	-	-
December	0.2	3.8	-3.2	0.0	-0.8	2.6	-0.2	1.5	-0.4	2.9	-	-

CPI-W

In August, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 238.445, up 0.7 percent from June. The CPI-W increased 3.0 percent over the year.

The October 2012 Consumer Price Index for San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (PST).

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 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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Solano 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; 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

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (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
Expenditure category						
All items	239.806	-	241.170	2.8	0.6	-
All items (1967=100)	737.231	-	741.425	-	-	-
Food and beverages	239.857	-	239.770	2.5	.0	-
Food	239.805	-	239.604	2.3	-.1	-
Food at home	235.049	236.806	233.345	.7	-.7	-1.5
Food away from home	244.954	-	246.645	4.3	.7	-
Alcoholic beverages	245.647	-	246.978	4.1	.5	-
Housing	257.030	-	259.914	3.8	1.1	-
Shelter	287.926	288.454	289.954	3.6	.7	.5
Rent of primary residence ¹	315.477	316.902	318.537	4.2	1.0	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	310.814	311.899	313.310	3.0	.8	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	310.814	311.899	313.310	3.0	.8	.5
Fuels and utilities	297.440	-	316.402	8.1	6.4	-
Household energy	297.348	297.989	297.451	-.9	.0	-.2
Energy services ¹	297.440	298.621	297.546	-.6	.0	-.4
Electricity ¹	311.632	309.269	309.269	.8	-.8	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	244.133	251.429	248.568	-4.2	1.8	-1.1
Household furnishings and operations	132.172	-	132.542	1.9	.3	-
Apparel	119.987	-	117.276	.8	-2.3	-
Transportation	197.707	-	198.056	3.4	.2	-
Private transportation	187.327	-	189.577	4.5	1.2	-
Motor fuel	301.192	285.891	310.778	9.0	3.2	8.7
Gasoline (all types)	300.519	285.116	309.893	9.1	3.1	8.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	302.136	286.691	312.074	9.3	3.3	8.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	277.726	262.845	284.592	8.8	2.5	8.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	278.533	264.784	286.677	8.8	2.9	8.3
Medical care	404.597	-	409.331	2.3	1.2	-
Recreation ⁵	111.944	-	112.520	.9	.5	-
Education and communication ⁵	143.363	-	143.533	-.4	.1	-
Other goods and services	401.018	-	402.489	2.7	.4	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	239.806	-	241.170	2.8	.6	-
Commodities	181.960	-	182.493	2.4	.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages	148.035	-	148.830	2.5	.5	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	190.220	-	192.013	3.5	.9	-
Durables	107.449	-	107.263	.7	-.2	-
Services	288.274	-	290.343	3.0	.7	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	233.001	-	234.237	2.8	.5	-
All items less shelter	221.915	-	222.995	2.3	.5	-
Commodities less food	152.629	-	153.449	2.6	.5	-
Nondurables	216.940	-	217.843	2.9	.4	-
Nondurables less food	194.818	-	196.591	3.6	.9	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	304.426	-	306.748	2.3	.8	-
Services less medical care services	280.582	-	282.640	3.1	.7	-
Energy	303.554	293.766	309.867	5.5	2.1	5.5
All items less energy	239.278	-	240.387	2.6	.5	-
All items less food and energy	239.947	-	241.286	2.7	.6	-

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.