

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
Kansas City, Mo.

For release: Tuesday, October 16, 2012

12-2087-KAN

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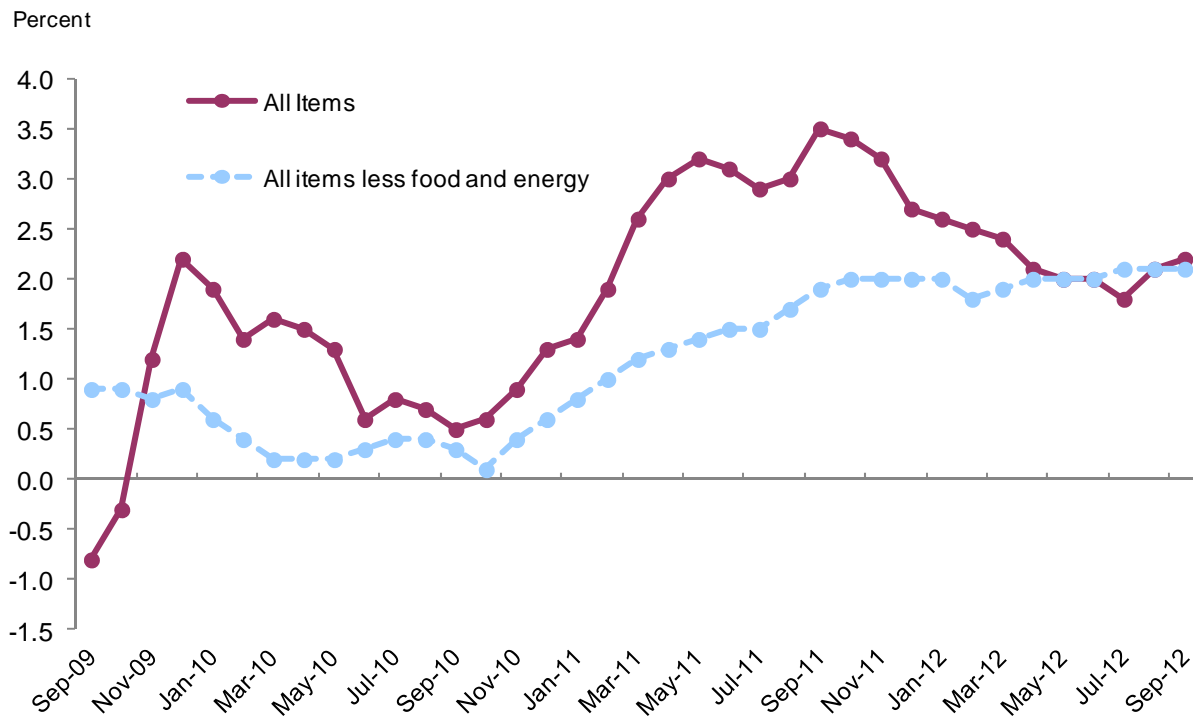
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, WEST REGION – SEPTEMBER 2012

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 2.2 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 September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the September increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and apparel. (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 advanced 2.2 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices rose 3.1 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 September 2011.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices inched up 0.1 percent for the month of September. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home were unchanged, and prices for food away from home rose 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.6 percent. Prices for food at home edged up 0.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 3.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 2.5 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.4 percent). Prices for electricity declined 0.7 percent, and prices for natural gas service declined 2.0 percent in September.

Energy prices rose 3.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (5.5 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 1.1 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 8.0 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in September. Higher prices for components including apparel (4.3 percent), education and communication (0.6 percent), recreation (0.3 percent), and shelter (0.2 percent), were partially offset by lower prices for categories such as used cars and trucks (-2.7 percent) and other goods and services (-0.2 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 (3.8 percent), and shelter (2.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in used cars and trucks (-2.4 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	0.5	2.2
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 September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 228.798, up 0.5 percent from August. The CPI-W increased 2.0 percent over the year.

The October 2012 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2012.

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 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 Mountain-Plains Information Office at (816) 285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. 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—		
	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Sep. 2012	Sep. 2011	July 2012	Aug. 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	231.893	233.001	234.083	2.2	0.9	0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	374.841	376.633	378.382	-	-	-
Food and beverages	235.071	235.827	236.057	1.6	.4	.1
Food	234.845	235.645	235.776	1.6	.4	.1
Food at home	235.563	236.589	236.534	.2	.4	.0
Food away from home	232.667	233.140	233.534	3.5	.4	.2
Alcoholic beverages	234.721	234.845	236.482	2.4	.8	.7
Housing	233.294	233.907	234.072	2.0	.3	.1
Shelter	260.710	261.413	261.946	2.3	.5	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	269.655	270.389	271.366	3.1	.6	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	274.062	274.780	275.363	2.2	.5	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	274.072	274.790	275.373	2.1	.5	.2
Fuels and utilities	254.476	256.434	254.661	.9	.1	-.7
Household energy	227.966	228.032	225.910	-1.3	-.9	-.9
Energy services ¹	230.201	230.210	227.836	-1.2	-1.0	-1.0
Electricity ¹	254.895	254.853	253.049	1.1	-.7	-.7
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	185.703	185.823	182.124	-8.0	-1.9	-2.0
Household furnishings and operations	129.911	129.428	129.250	.4	-.5	-.1
Apparel	116.488	116.577	121.577	3.8	4.4	4.3
Transportation	215.526	218.676	221.311	2.9	2.7	1.2
Private transportation	209.161	212.967	215.873	3.2	3.2	1.4
New and used motor vehicles ³	102.767	102.427	101.258	.5	-1.5	-1.1
New vehicles	144.318	144.099	144.192	1.9	-.1	.1
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	100.166	100.023	100.100	1.9	-.1	.1
New cars ⁴	145.707	145.478	145.470	1.4	-.2	.0
Used cars and trucks	150.209	149.417	145.426	-2.4	-3.2	-2.7
Motor fuel	297.915	313.367	327.451	5.7	9.9	4.5
Gasoline (all types)	297.067	312.299	326.024	5.5	9.7	4.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	296.153	311.493	325.595	5.5	9.9	4.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	279.051	292.951	304.660	5.4	9.2	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	282.187	296.232	308.015	5.3	9.2	4.0
Medical care	423.630	424.628	425.591	3.9	.5	.2
Medical care commodities	334.668	336.337	336.847	1.7	.7	.2
Medical care services	451.163	451.894	453.014	4.6	.4	.2
Professional services	316.925	318.059	318.892	2.6	.6	.3
Recreation ³	109.374	109.847	110.131	1.3	.7	.3
Education and communication ³	134.700	135.165	135.992	1.7	1.0	.6
Other goods and services	387.176	388.599	387.911	1.3	.2	-.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	231.893	233.001	234.083	2.2	.9	.5
Commodities	182.162	183.609	185.352	1.8	1.8	.9
Commodities less food and beverages	154.156	155.859	158.205	2.0	2.6	1.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	197.799	201.733	207.282	3.1	4.8	2.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	254.838	261.469	267.403	3.0	4.9	2.3
Durables	113.859	113.329	112.463	-.4	-1.2	-.8
Services	277.179	277.940	278.360	2.4	.4	.2
Rent of shelter ²	277.294	278.029	278.600	2.3	.5	.2
Transportation services	270.914	269.685	269.747	1.4	-.4	.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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—		
	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Sep. 2012	Sep. 2011	July 2012	Aug. 2012
Commodity and service group						
Other services	320.988	322.672	323.918	2.6	0.9	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	223.049	224.155	225.235	2.0	1.0	.5
All items less food	231.620	232.781	234.023	2.3	1.0	.5
All items less shelter	221.683	222.972	224.296	2.1	1.2	.6
Commodities less food	157.462	159.134	161.475	2.0	2.5	1.5
Nondurables	217.623	220.113	223.233	2.3	2.6	1.4
Nondurables less food	201.080	204.834	210.206	3.1	4.5	2.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	252.623	258.668	264.214	2.9	4.6	2.1
Services less rent of shelter ²	308.623	309.504	309.774	2.5	.4	.1
Services less medical care services	265.093	265.849	266.227	2.2	.4	.1
Energy	269.356	278.070	285.037	3.1	5.8	2.5
All items less energy	230.859	231.358	231.970	2.0	.5	.3
All items less food and energy	230.881	231.326	232.030	2.1	.5	.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	141.696	141.555	142.362	.8	.5	.6
Energy commodities	301.216	316.638	330.786	5.5	9.8	4.5
Services less energy services	280.857	281.670	282.280	2.6	.5	.2

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 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ 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.