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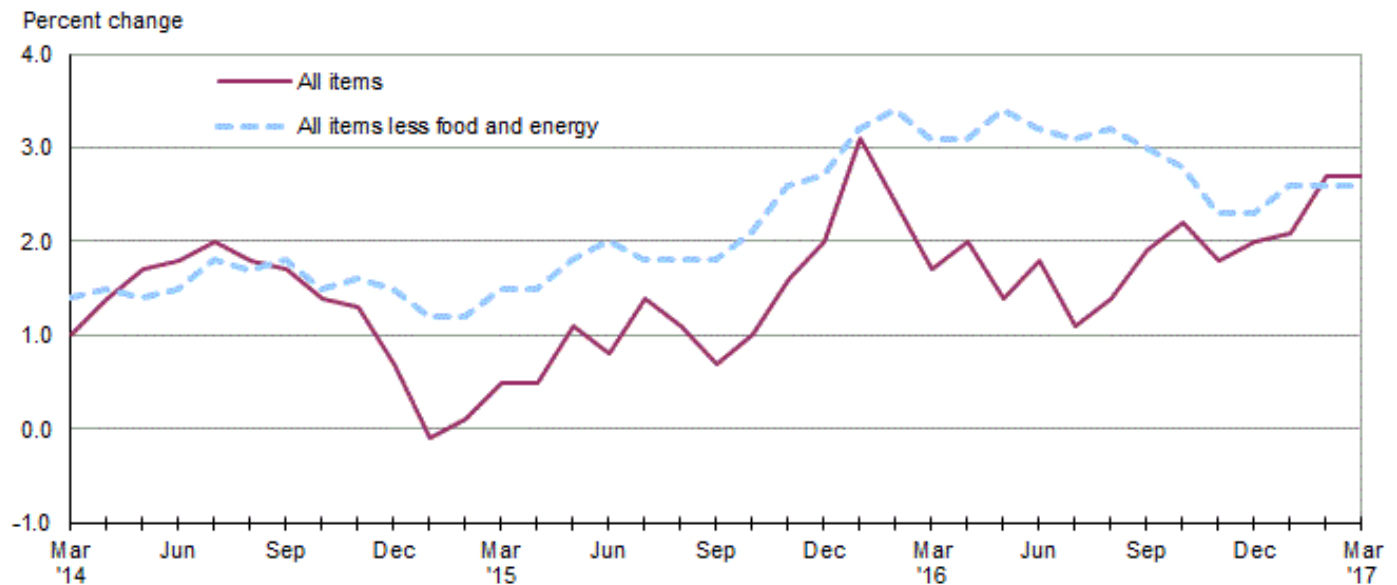
## Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — March 2017

**Area prices were up 0.3 percent over the past month, up 2.7 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.3 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the March 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 advanced 2.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices advanced 7.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, March 2014–March 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices rose 0.5 percent for the month of March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 0.9 percent, while prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.0 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.9 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home decreased 0.4 percent.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 1.4 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (3.0 percent). Prices for electricity were inched up 0.1 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 2.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 7.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (12.1 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service advanced 5.7 percent, and prices for electricity moved up 0.5 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in March. Higher prices for apparel (1.8 percent), other goods and services (0.3 percent), and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-0.9 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.8 percent) and medical care (3.7 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-2.7 percent) and education and communication (-2.0 percent).

**Table A. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	3.1	0.9	2.1
February.....	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	2.4	0.6	2.7
March.....	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.7	0.3	2.7
April.....	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5	0.2	2.0		
May.....	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.4		
June.....	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8	0.1	1.8		
July.....	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.1		
August.....	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.1	0.0	1.4		
September.....	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7	-0.4	0.7	0.2	1.9		
October.....	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.0	0.4	2.2		
November.....	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.8		
December.....	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7	-0.1	2.0	0.0	2.0		

**The April 2017 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released May 12, 2017.**

## 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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura 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; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. 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-		
	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Mar. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	252.373	253.815	254.525	2.7	0.9	0.3
All items (1967=100) .....	745.623	749.881	751.980	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	253.317	253.438	254.571	1.0	0.5	0.4
Food .....	253.236	253.592	254.820	1.0	0.6	0.5
Food at home .....	255.079	254.014	256.216	-0.4	0.4	0.9
Food away from home .....	247.162	249.263	249.274	2.9	0.9	0.0
Alcoholic beverages .....	239.443	236.171	235.876	1.3	-1.5	-0.1
Housing .....	284.696	285.754	285.975	4.2	0.4	0.1
Shelter .....	325.595	327.217	327.750	4.8	0.7	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1) .....	341.115	342.343	343.624	5.0	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2) .....	337.597	338.967	339.317	4.7	0.5	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2) .....	337.578	338.948	339.298	4.7	0.5	0.1
Fuels and utilities .....	304.962	304.509	303.031	3.0	-0.6	-0.5
Household energy .....	264.439	262.666	260.921	1.6	-1.3	-0.7
Energy services(1) .....	262.860	261.069	259.884	1.7	-1.1	-0.5
Electricity(1) .....	301.898	301.917	302.157	0.5	0.1	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1) .....	218.858	212.696	208.109	5.7	-4.9	-2.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	117.101	116.737	116.522	0.0	-0.5	-0.2
Apparel .....	105.915	110.245	112.197	-2.7	5.9	1.8
Transportation .....	192.435	195.460	197.847	4.0	2.8	1.2
Private transportation .....	187.851	190.716	193.043	4.2	2.8	1.2
Motor fuel .....	217.767	227.233	233.940	12.3	7.4	3.0
Gasoline (all types) .....	212.880	222.224	228.870	12.1	7.5	3.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3) .....	213.079	222.491	229.217	12.2	7.6	3.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3) (4) .....	203.958	213.229	219.494	12.3	7.6	2.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3) .....	204.484	213.067	219.062	11.5	7.1	2.8
Medical care .....	465.997	465.127	465.952	3.7	0.0	0.2
Recreation(5) .....	106.123	106.204	106.272	-0.6	0.1	0.1
Education and communication(5) .....	141.298	143.463	142.117	-2.0	0.6	-0.9
Other goods and services .....	393.872	389.313	390.346	0.2	-0.9	0.3
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	252.373	253.815	254.525	2.7	0.9	0.3
Commodities .....	173.767	174.964	176.116	0.8	1.4	0.7
Commodities less food & beverages .....	132.514	134.087	135.189	0.6	2.0	0.8
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	171.514	175.166	177.662	2.5	3.6	1.4
Durables .....	94.301	93.819	93.543	-2.7	-0.8	-0.3
Services .....	322.337	323.995	324.306	3.6	0.6	0.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	243.126	244.649	245.352	2.6	0.9	0.3
All items less shelter .....	220.314	221.681	222.476	1.3	1.0	0.4
Commodities less food .....	136.977	138.443	139.522	0.7	1.9	0.8
Nondurables .....	212.996	215.103	217.027	1.7	1.9	0.9
Nondurables less food .....	177.515	180.865	183.253	2.4	3.2	1.3
Services less rent of shelter(2) .....	326.645	328.386	328.376	2.0	0.5	0.0
Services less medical care services .....	309.984	311.735	312.048	3.6	0.7	0.1
Energy .....	236.489	241.676	245.165	7.7	3.7	1.4
All items less energy .....	255.488	256.658	257.164	2.3	0.7	0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. 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) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Mar. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017
All items less food and energy .....	256.209	257.518	257.903	2.6	0.7	0.1

Footnotes(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.