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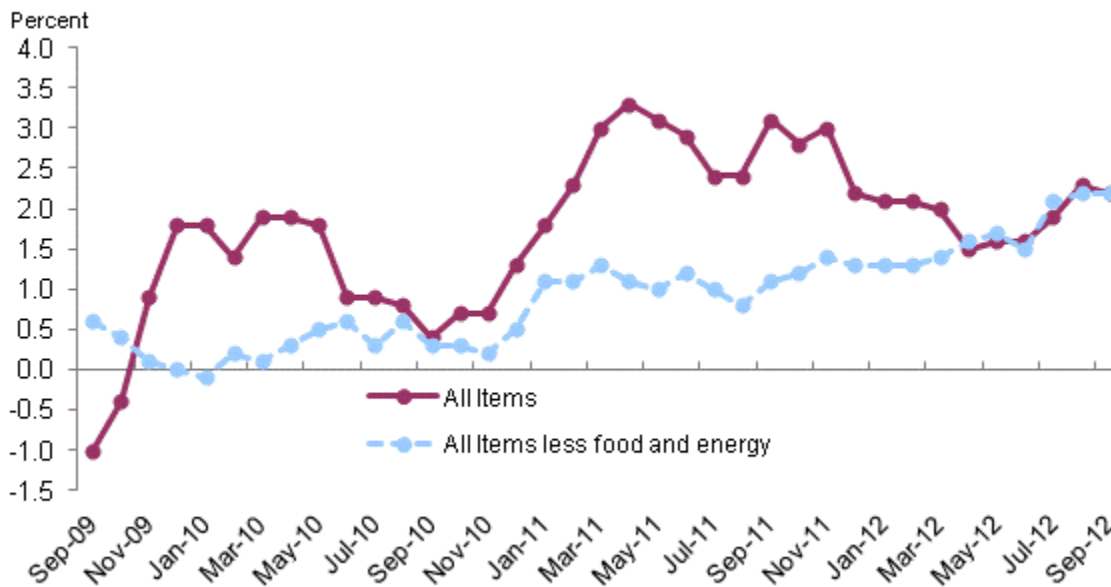
### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, LOS ANGELES AREA – SEPTEMBER 2012

**AREA PRICES WERE UP 0.4 PERCENT OVER THE PAST MONTH, UP 2.2 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.4 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the September increase was influenced by higher prices for apparel 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 2.2 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices increased 3.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent since September 2011.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, September 2009–September 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of September. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home were also unchanged, while prices for food away from home edged up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.2 percent. Prices for food at home decreased 0.2 percent since a year ago, but prices for food away from home increased 3.1 percent.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 1.4 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (2.5 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, while prices for natural gas service decreased 4.2 percent in September.

Energy prices increased 3.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (5.2 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 3.7 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 9.6 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 apparel (5.1 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-1.2 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (4.3 percent), education and communication (2.8 percent), and shelter (2.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in household furnishings and operations (-0.3 percent).

**Table A. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County 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	0.9	3.2	0.7	3.9	0.5	-0.1	0.4	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1
February	1.0	3.5	0.2	3.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1
March	0.8	3.8	1.0	3.3	0.0	-1.0	0.4	1.9	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0
April	0.6	3.5	0.5	3.1	0.1	-1.3	0.2	1.9	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5
May	0.3	2.9	0.9	3.7	0.4	-1.8	0.2	1.8	0.0	3.1	0.1	1.6
June	-0.6	2.9	1.1	5.4	0.6	-2.2	-0.2	0.9	-0.4	2.9	-0.4	1.6
July	0.1	2.9	0.4	5.7	0.0	-2.6	0.1	0.9	-0.4	2.4	-0.1	1.9
August	-0.1	2.6	-0.6	5.1	0.2	-1.7	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.4	0.6	2.3
September	0.2	2.3	-0.5	4.5	0.3	-1.0	-0.1	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.4	2.2
October	0.5	3.5	-0.6	3.4	0.0	-0.4	0.3	0.7	0.0	2.8	-	-
November	0.6	4.2	-1.7	1.0	-0.4	0.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.1	3.0	-	-
December	-0.3	4.2	-1.2	0.1	-0.3	1.8	0.3	1.3	-0.5	2.2	-	-

## CPI-W

In September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 231.085, up 0.4 percent from August. The CPI-W increased 2.2 percent over the year.

**The October 2012 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County 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](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; 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

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (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
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	235.776	237.222	238.104	2.2	1.0	0.4
All items (1967=100) .....	696.587	700.858	703.465	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	236.712	237.023	237.368	1.2	.3	.1
Food .....	236.422	236.897	236.959	1.2	.2	.0
Food at home .....	246.342	246.581	246.490	-.2	.1	.0
Food away from home .....	220.567	221.312	221.553	3.1	.4	.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	226.675	224.644	228.969	1.0	1.0	1.9
Housing .....	249.724	250.065	250.214	2.1	.2	.1
Shelter .....	280.883	281.180	281.757	2.3	.3	.2
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	290.458	290.551	291.004	2.6	.2	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	293.168	293.551	293.981	2.2	.3	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	293.165	293.548	293.979	2.2	.3	.1
Fuels and utilities .....	262.645	263.932	262.004	2.6	-.2	-.7
Household energy .....	236.316	237.994	235.374	.6	-.4	-1.1
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	234.910	236.486	233.614	.6	-.6	-1.2
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	273.452	274.008	274.008	3.7	.2	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	187.029	190.486	182.443	-9.6	-2.5	-4.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	121.109	121.196	120.608	-.3	-.4	-.5
Apparel .....	110.463	111.046	116.760	1.3	5.7	5.1
Transportation .....	209.421	214.279	216.255	3.1	3.3	.9
Private transportation .....	203.309	208.511	210.780	3.4	3.7	1.1
Motor fuel .....	293.981	315.186	323.158	5.3	9.9	2.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	288.043	308.833	316.415	5.2	9.8	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	289.409	310.597	318.277	5.3	10.0	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	271.585	291.416	297.638	5.2	9.6	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	272.556	290.740	298.321	5.0	9.5	2.6
Medical care .....	407.977	406.661	408.131	4.3	.0	.4
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	103.832	105.320	104.043	.1	.2	-1.2
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	141.429	142.522	142.626	2.8	.8	.1
Other goods and services .....	370.532	373.396	371.926	.9	.4	-.4
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	235.776	237.222	238.104	2.2	1.0	.4
Commodities .....	179.793	181.966	183.497	1.7	2.1	.8
Commodities less food and beverages .....	147.965	150.867	152.856	2.0	3.3	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	193.175	199.244	203.527	2.6	5.4	2.1
Durables .....	103.845	103.395	102.951	.3	-.9	-.4
Services .....	284.433	285.143	285.379	2.5	.3	.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	228.093	229.614	230.469	2.1	1.0	.4
All items less shelter .....	216.127	218.077	219.094	2.1	1.4	.5
Commodities less food .....	151.712	154.503	156.579	1.9	3.2	1.3
Nondurables .....	216.959	220.441	222.958	2.0	2.8	1.1
Nondurables less food .....	197.325	203.030	207.367	2.5	5.1	2.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	297.619	298.954	298.684	2.8	.4	-.1
Services less medical care services .....	274.530	275.262	275.433	2.3	.3	.1
Energy .....	273.729	287.841	291.955	3.9	6.7	1.4
All items less energy .....	234.840	235.330	235.973	2.0	.5	.3
All items less food and energy .....	234.886	235.380	236.132	2.2	.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> 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.