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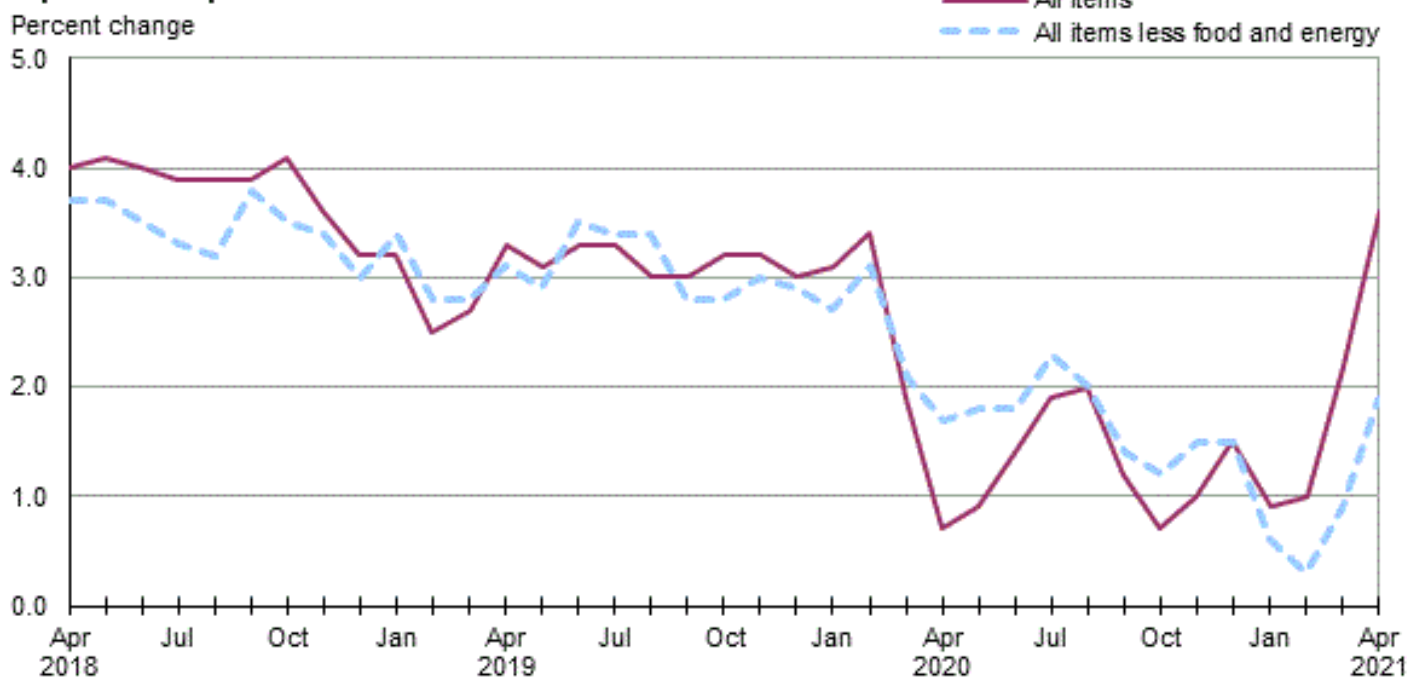
## Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – April 2021

**Area prices were up 1.1 percent over the past month, up 3.6 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 1.1 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for new and used motor vehicles and recreation. (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 3.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices increased 4.1 percent. Energy prices jumped 26.4 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, April 2018–April 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices rose 1.3 percent for the month of April. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 2.1 percent, led by higher prices for fruits and vegetables. Prices for food away from home advanced 0.6 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 4.1 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 4.2 percent. Prices for food at home increased 4.1 percent since a year ago, led by higher prices for fruits and vegetables (7.3 percent) and meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (6.6 percent).

## Energy

The energy index rose 1.8 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (3.3 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 0.5 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 3.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 26.4 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (35.6 percent). Prices paid for electricity jumped 15.2 percent, and prices for natural gas service rose 8.4 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.0 percent in April. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (4.8 percent), recreation (4.6 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-0.6 percent) and education and communication (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (7.2 percent), new and used motor vehicles (5.7 percent), and shelter (0.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in education and communication (-1.5 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.7 percent).

**Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1	0.2	0.9
February.....	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5	0.3	3.4	0.4	1.0
March.....	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7	-0.7	1.9	0.5	2.2
April.....	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3	-0.3	0.7	1.1	3.6
May.....	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.9		
June.....	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3	0.5	1.4		
July.....	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3	0.6	1.9		
August.....	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0	0.1	2.0		
September.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0	-0.3	1.2		
October.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.7		
November.....	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2	0.1	1.0		
December.....	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0	-0.2	1.5		

**The May 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on June 10, 2021.**

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on April 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in April was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

### 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 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

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-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA metropolitan area includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties in California.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	281.347	282.648	285.808	3.6	1.6	1.1
All items (1967=100).....	831.223	835.067	844.403	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	283.522	283.505	287.089	4.0	1.3	1.3
Food.....	283.715	283.750	287.567	4.1	1.4	1.3
Food at home.....	269.217	267.292	273.030	4.1	1.4	2.1
Cereals and bakery products.....	277.500	281.430	283.353	-0.4	2.1	0.7
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	299.450	302.461	307.235	6.6	2.6	1.6
Dairy and related products.....	261.590	259.853	258.855	-0.6	-1.0	-0.4
Fruits and vegetables.....	363.625	358.042	374.431	7.3	3.0	4.6
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	275.704	268.265	276.135	3.1	0.2	2.9
Other food at home.....	203.485	199.524	203.904	4.0	0.2	2.2
Food away from home.....	294.972	296.916	298.823	4.2	1.3	0.6
Alcoholic beverages.....	260.811	260.197	260.793	2.2	0.0	0.2
Housing.....	326.053	326.591	327.410	1.5	0.4	0.3
Shelter.....	375.778	375.676	376.875	0.9	0.3	0.3
Rent of primary residence(2).....	401.167	400.962	401.462	0.7	0.1	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	392.372	392.227	391.614	0.5	-0.2	-0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	392.349	392.204	391.592	0.5	-0.2	-0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	372.538	373.221	371.953	11.8	-0.2	-0.3
Household energy.....	325.529	325.995	324.439	13.5	-0.3	-0.5
Energy services(2).....	324.104	324.444	322.917	13.5	-0.4	-0.5
Electricity(2).....	381.106	381.498	383.502	15.2	0.6	0.5
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	250.556	250.837	241.865	8.4	-3.5	-3.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	117.480	120.176	120.280	-0.7	2.4	0.1
Apparel.....	107.305	111.445	110.832	7.2	3.3	-0.6
Transportation.....	211.493	216.878	225.729	14.9	6.7	4.1
Private transportation.....	213.448	218.064	224.775	15.1	5.3	3.1
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	92.547	91.675	96.073	5.7	3.8	4.8
New vehicles(1).....	172.218	171.386	173.352	1.5	0.7	1.1
Used cars and trucks(1).....	286.569	293.092	320.026	20.1	11.7	9.2
Motor fuel.....	270.418	291.927	301.473	35.5	11.5	3.3
Gasoline (all types).....	264.161	285.179	294.486	35.6	11.5	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	263.769	284.872	294.509	36.2	11.7	3.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	255.014	273.815	283.189	32.6	11.0	3.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	256.056	276.184	283.871	33.7	10.9	2.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	802.689	802.689	800.022	17.8	-0.3	-0.3
Medical care.....	507.285	505.630	508.953	1.8	0.3	0.7
Recreation(6).....	102.330	105.756	110.592	2.1	8.1	4.6
Education and communication(6).....	149.850	147.020	146.927	-1.5	-2.0	-0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,910.404	1,911.766	1,911.766	-2.6	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services.....	466.852	462.504	468.902	4.1	0.4	1.4
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	281.347	282.648	285.808	3.6	1.6	1.1
Commodities.....	187.956	190.310	193.088	6.7	2.7	1.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	139.124	142.487	144.819	9.2	4.1	1.6
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	188.403	194.778	197.510	12.2	4.8	1.4
Durables.....	91.359	92.146	94.010	4.7	2.9	2.0
Services.....	364.297	364.509	367.939	2.1	1.0	0.9

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-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	271.527	272.925	276.059	3.7	1.7	1.1
All items less shelter.....	239.730	241.621	245.599	5.5	2.4	1.6
Commodities less food .....	144.350	147.596	149.884	8.8	3.8	1.6
Nondurables .....	237.175	240.376	243.550	7.2	2.7	1.3
Nondurables less food.....	195.613	201.533	204.134	11.2	4.4	1.3
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	357.544	358.214	364.931	4.0	2.1	1.9
Services less medical care services.....	350.902	351.183	354.558	2.0	1.0	1.0
Energy .....	291.972	306.138	311.797	26.4	6.8	1.8
All items less energy .....	282.868	283.317	286.335	2.3	1.2	1.1
All items less food and energy .....	282.860	283.389	286.255	1.9	1.2	1.0

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.