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## Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — May 2016

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 1.5 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 0.5 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the May increase was influenced by higher prices for medical care 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 1.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices fell 18.4 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.5 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

### News Release Information

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### Contacts

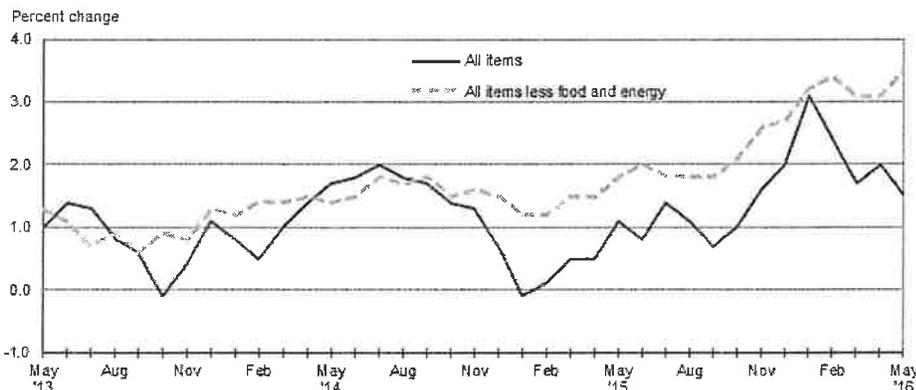
**Technical information:**  
(415) 625-2270  
[BLSinfoSF@bls.gov](mailto:BLSinfoSF@bls.gov)  
[www.bls.gov/regions/west/](http://www.bls.gov/regions/west/)

**Media contact:**  
(415) 625-2270

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Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, May 2013–May 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices declined 0.5 percent for the month of May. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home decreased 1.1 percent, but prices for food away from home moved up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 1.3 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.8 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home decreased 0.6 percent.

### Energy

The energy index advanced 1.1 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for natural gas service (11.9 percent). Prices for gasoline edged up 0.1 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices fell 18.4 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-27.5 percent). Prices paid for electricity decreased 2.7 percent, but prices for natural gas service increased 2.0 percent during the past year.

**All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.7 percent in May. Higher prices for medical care (3.1 percent) and shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-0.3 percent) and education and communication (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (9.8 percent) and shelter (4.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in education and communication (-0.5 percent).

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Monthly	Annual										
January	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	3.1
February	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	2.4
March	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.7
April	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5	0.2	2.0
May	0.0	3.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.5
June	-0.4	2.9	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8		
July	-0.4	2.4	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4		
August	0.2	2.4	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.1		
September	0.5	3.1	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7	-0.4	0.7		
October	0.0	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.0		
November	-0.1	3.0	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.0	1.6		
December	-0.5	2.2	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7	-0.1	2.0		

The June 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on July 15, 2016.

**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-		
	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May 2016	May 2015	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016
Expenditure category						
All items	247.873	248.368	249.671	1.5	0.7	0.5