

News

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LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES RISE 1.1 PERCENT IN JUNE

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area increased 1.1 percent in June, compared to a 0.9 percent increase for May. The annual increase for the year ending June 2008 was 5.4 percent, compared to a 3.7 percent increase for the year ending May 2008. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that rising prices for transportation and housing largely contributed to the annual gain. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

Transportation prices in the Los Angeles area increased by 5.1 percent between May and June. The transportation index, accounts for 18.5 percent of the CPI All Items Index, and exhibited the largest monthly increase among the eight major CPI expenditure categories. Additionally, transportation prices surged 13.5 percent over the past 12 months. This was the largest over-the-year increase for transportation prices in Los Angeles since November 1980. Within the transportation index, gasoline prices advanced 14.2 percent over the past month and 40.5 percent over the past year.

The housing index, which comprises 46 percent of the Los Angeles area's all items index, increased 0.2 in June and advanced 2.9 percent compared to 12 months ago. Shelter, household fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations are all components of the housing index. Shelter increased 0.5 percent over the month, and advanced 3.1 percent over the year. Household fuels and utilities decreased 2.6 percent for the month, but advanced 7.6 percent since June 2007. Within household fuels and utilities, prices for the utility (piped) gas service index rose 0.6 percent, while electricity prices decreased 6.7 percent during June. Since June 2007, the utility (piped) gas service index jumped 27.7 percent, while electricity prices decreased 2.9 percent. Meanwhile, household furnishings and operations edged up 0.1 percent in June, but fell 2.1 percent from a year ago.

The Los Angeles area's food and beverages index, which accounts for approximately 13 percent of the Los Angeles all items index, grew 0.3 percent in June and was 4.5 percent higher than last year's level. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, increased 0.2 percent in June and advanced 6.3 percent from a year ago. Food away from home prices were up 0.6 percent in June and advanced 2.8 percent compared to June 2007. Additionally, prices for alcoholic beverages fell 1.5 percent over the past month, but advanced 2.3 percent over the past year.

Medical care prices grew 0.7 percent in June and increased 4.7 percent since June 2007.

The apparel index decreased 4.8 percent over the past month, but increased 7.7 percent over the past year. This was the largest annual increase in apparel prices in Los Angeles since September 1991.

The Los Angeles area education and communication index grew 0.5 percent in June and increased 4.7 percent compared to June 2007.

Among the remaining major expenditure categories, the recreation index increased 0.5 percent and while the other goods and services index edged up 0.2 percent between May and June. Over the past year, recreation prices were up 1.3 percent and other goods and services prices rose 3.2 percent.

The All Items less food and energy special aggregate index increased 0.2 percent in June, after increasing 0.5 percent in May. Over the past 12 months, the index has advanced 3.0 percent. Additionally, the special energy aggregate index was up 8.7 percent in June and stood 30.1 percent higher than in June 2007.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, stands at 229.033 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$229.03 in June 2008.

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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—		
	Apr. 2008	May 2008	June 2008	June 2007	Apr. 2008	May 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	224.625	226.651	229.033	5.4	2.0	1.1
All items (1967=100)	663.643	669.627	676.666	-	-	-
Food and beverages	217.287	219.484	220.060	4.5	1.3	.3
Food	215.876	217.976	218.816	4.7	1.4	.4
Food at home	228.342	231.294	231.762	6.3	1.5	.2
Food away from home	197.970	199.118	200.335	2.8	1.2	.6
Alcoholic beverages	224.987	228.518	225.055	2.3	.0	-1.5
Housing	242.426	243.960	244.503	2.9	.9	.2
Shelter	271.233	272.195	273.604	3.1	.9	.5
Rent of primary residence ¹	272.234	273.283	274.769	4.5	.9	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	282.751	283.530	284.777	3.7	.7	.4
Fuels and utilities	250.800	258.745	252.034	7.6	.5	-2.6
Household energy	255.972	266.466	256.748	7.7	.3	-3.6
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	254.157	264.426	254.136	6.7	.0	-3.9
Electricity ¹	263.725	260.960	243.588	-2.9	-7.6	-6.7
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	266.077	302.259	304.175	27.7	14.3	.6
Household furnishings and operations	125.197	126.309	126.471	-2.1	1.0	.1
Apparel	108.732	109.104	103.908	7.7	-4.4	-4.8
Transportation	196.663	200.764	210.977	13.5	7.3	5.1
Private transportation	191.310	194.501	203.974	13.8	6.6	4.9
Motor fuel	295.134	308.766	352.248	40.8	19.4	14.1
Gasoline (all types)	288.558	301.553	344.508	40.5	19.4	14.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	289.394	302.937	346.456	41.3	19.7	14.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	273.003	284.491	325.256	39.9	19.1	14.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	274.610	286.116	325.408	38.3	18.5	13.7
Medical care	351.494	352.329	354.958	4.7	1.0	.7
Recreation ⁵	114.504	115.381	115.944	1.3	1.3	.5
Education and communication ⁵	124.014	124.440	125.050	4.7	.8	.5
Other goods and services	340.482	340.275	340.861	3.2	.1	.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	224.625	226.651	229.033	5.4	2.0	1.1
Commodities	173.633	175.563	179.144	8.0	3.2	2.0
Commodities less food and beverages	146.910	148.620	153.010	9.8	4.2	3.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	192.517	196.730	207.047	19.4	7.5	5.2
Durables	104.577	104.401	104.304	-1.6	-.3	-.1
Services	268.695	270.758	271.891	3.8	1.2	.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	218.430	220.468	222.817	5.4	2.0	1.1
All items less shelter	204.330	206.843	209.674	6.8	2.6	1.4
Commodities less food	150.758	152.532	156.818	9.6	4.0	2.8
Nondurables	207.845	211.226	217.313	12.0	4.6	2.9
Nondurables less food	196.815	201.055	210.850	18.3	7.1	4.9
Services less rent of shelter ²	272.437	276.211	276.930	4.7	1.6	.3
Services less medical care services	261.271	263.313	264.410	3.7	1.2	.4
Energy	283.468	296.116	321.989	30.1	13.6	8.7
All items less energy	222.002	223.229	223.826	3.2	.8	.3
All items less food and energy	223.540	224.626	225.185	3.0	.7	.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 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.