

NEWS RELEASE

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F L A B O R



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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – APRIL 2016

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.4 percent in April on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 1.1 percent before seasonal adjustment.

The seasonally adjusted all items increase was broad-based, with the indexes for food, energy, and all items less food and energy all rising in April. The food index rose 0.2 percent after declining in March, with the food at home index increasing slightly. The index for energy increased 3.4 percent, with the gasoline index rising 8.1 percent, and the indexes for fuel oil and natural gas also advancing.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.2 percent in April. The shelter index rose 0.3 percent, as did the index for medical care, and the indexes for motor vehicle insurance, airline fares, recreation, and education increased as well. Several other component indexes increased slightly, including those for alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and personal care. In contrast, the indexes for household furnishings and operations, apparel, new vehicles, used cars and trucks, and communication all declined.

The all items index rose 1.1 percent for the 12 months ending April, a larger increase than the 0.9-percent increase for the 12 months ending March. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent over the last 12 months, compared to a 2.2-percent rise for the 12 months ending March. The food index has risen 0.9 percent over the last 12 months, and the energy index has declined 8.9 percent.

Chart 1. One-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), seasonally adjusted, Apr. 2015 - Apr. 2016
Percent change

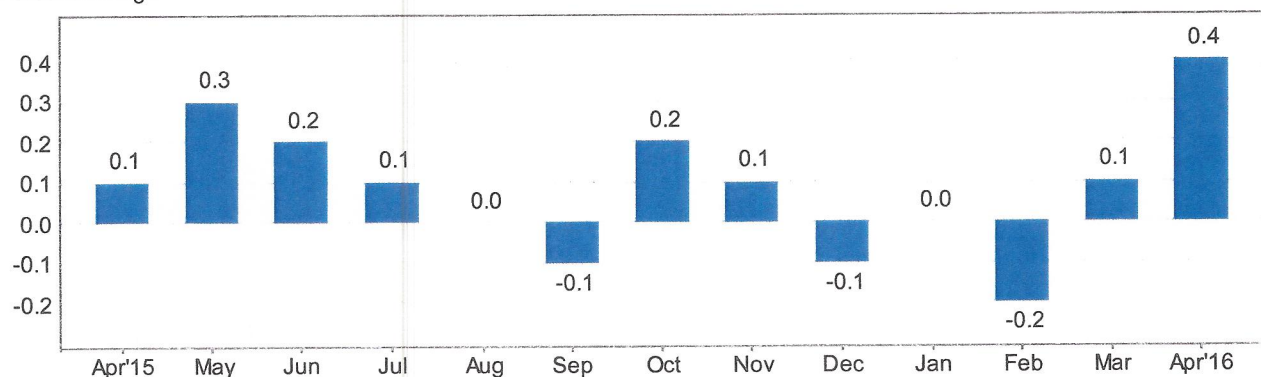


Chart 2. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), not seasonally adjusted, Apr. 2015 - Apr. 2016

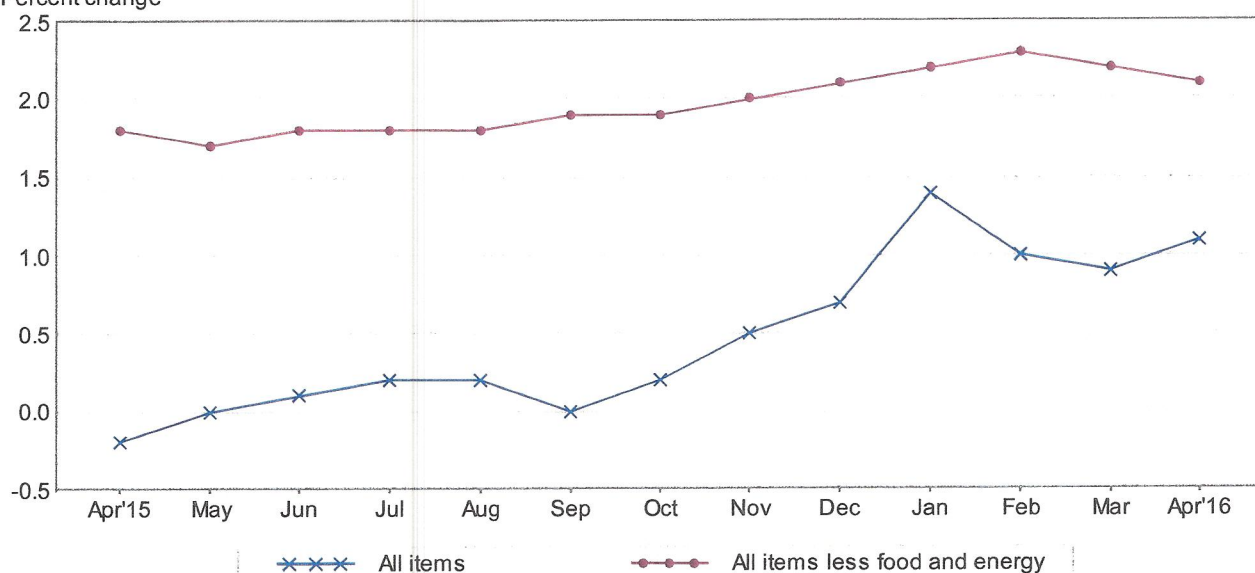


Table A. Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average

	Seasonally adjusted changes from preceding month							Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Apr. 2016
	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	
All items .....	.2	.1	-.1	.0	-.2	.1	.4	1.1
Food .....	.1	-.1	-.2	.0	.2	-.2	.2	.9
Food at home .....	.0	-.3	-.4	-.2	.2	-.5	.1	-.3
Food away from home ¹ .....	.2	.2	.1	.3	.1	.2	.2	2.7
Energy .....	.4	.3	-2.8	-2.8	-6.0	.9	3.4	-8.9
Energy commodities .....	.9	.7	-4.8	-4.8	-12.5	1.9	7.8	-14.2
Gasoline (all types) .....	.9	.8	-4.8	-4.8	-13.0	2.2	8.1	-13.8
Fuel oil ¹	-1.1	-1.3	-7.8	-6.5	-2.9	1.7	1.9	-27.5
Energy services	-.1	-.2	-.7	-.7	.1	.2	-.1	-3.1
Electricity .....	.1	.2	-.4	-.7	-.2	.4	-.3	-2.1
Utility (piped) gas service	-.9	-1.7	-1.9	-.6	1.0	-.7	.6	-6.5
All items less food and energy .....	.2	.2	.2	.3	.3	.1	.2	2.1
Commodities less food and energy								
commodities	-.1	-.1	-.1	.2	.3	-.2	-.1	-.5
New vehicles	-.1	.0	.0	.3	.2	.0	-.3	.0
Used cars and trucks	-.1	.1	.2	.1	.2	-.1	-.3	-1.5
Apparel	-.5	-.1	-.2	.6	1.6	-1.1	-.3	-.6
Medical care commodities .....	.2	.2	.1	.4	.6	.3	.5	2.7
Services less energy services .....	.3	.3	.2	.3	.3	.2	.3	3.0
Shelter .....	.3	.2	.2	.3	.3	.2	.3	3.2
Transportation services .....	.1	.5	.3	.4	.2	.2	.7	3.3
Medical care services .....	.7	.3	.1	.5	.5	.1	.3	3.1

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

Consumer Price Index Data for April 2016

Food

The food index rose 0.2 percent in April after falling 0.2 percent in March. The food at home index increased 0.1 percent after declining 0.5 percent the prior month. Major grocery store food group indexes were mixed in April, with four increases and two declines, and generally small changes. The largest of the increases belonged to the other food at home group, which rose 0.5 percent. The index for dairy and related products, which fell in March, rose 0.4 percent in April. The indexes for cereals and bakery products and for nonalcoholic beverages both increased 0.3 percent.

The index for fruits and vegetables, however, declined for the second straight month, falling 0.5 percent as both the fresh fruits and fresh vegetables indexes decreased. The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs fell 0.1 percent, as a 6.3 percent decline in the index for eggs more than offset increases in the indexes for meats, poultry, and fish. The food at home index has declined 0.3 percent over the past year, with the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs falling 3.1 percent. The index for food away from home advanced 0.2 percent in April and has risen 2.7 percent over the last 12 months.

Energy

The energy index rose 3.4 percent in April; this followed a 0.9 percent increase in March and was its largest increase since February 2013. Most of the rise was due to the gasoline index, which increased 8.1 percent in April. (Before seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices increased 9.1 percent in April.) The fuel oil index also increased, rising 1.9 percent in April. The index for natural gas, which declined in March, advanced 0.6 percent in April. The electricity index, however, declined in April, falling 0.3 percent after rising in March. Despite the monthly increase, the energy index has declined 8.9 percent over the past year, with all major component indexes falling over the period. The gasoline index has decreased 13.8 percent over the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.2 percent in April after increasing 0.1 percent in March. The shelter index rose 0.3 percent in April following a 0.2 percent rise the prior month. The indexes for rent and for owners' equivalent rent both increased 0.3 percent, while the index for lodging away from home declined for the second straight month, falling 0.4 percent. The medical care index rose 0.3 percent in April, with the index for prescription drugs rising 0.7 percent and the hospital services index advancing 0.3 percent, but the physicians' services index declining 0.1 percent. The motor vehicle insurance index rose 1.2 percent in April, and the index for airline fares advanced 1.1 percent after declining in March. The recreation index rose 0.3 percent in April, as did the index for education, and the indexes for alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and personal care all posted slight increases.

In contrast, the index for household furnishings and operations declined 0.4 percent in April, its largest decline since April 2010. The indexes for apparel, for new vehicles, and for used cars and trucks also fell in April, each declining 0.3 percent. The index for communication declined as well, falling 0.2 percent.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.1 percent over the past 12 months. Indexes posting larger increases include motor vehicle insurance (6.0 percent), tobacco (3.7 percent), shelter (3.2 percent), and medical care (3.0 percent). Indexes rising more slowly include personal care (1.7 percent), recreation (1.3 percent), and airline fares (0.4 percent). The index for new vehicles was unchanged over the past 12 months, and several indexes declined, including used cars and trucks (-1.5 percent), household furnishings and operations (-1.2 percent), and apparel (-0.6 percent).

Not seasonally adjusted CPI measures

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 1.1 percent over the last 12 months to an index level of 239.261 (1982-84=100). For the month, the index increased 0.5 percent prior to seasonal adjustment.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 0.8 percent over the last 12 months to an index level of 233.438 (1982-84=100). For the month, the index increased 0.5 percent prior to seasonal adjustment.

The Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U) increased 0.7 percent over the last 12 months. For the month, the index rose 0.6 percent on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Please note that the indexes for the past 10 to 12 months are subject to revision.

The Consumer Price Index for May 2016 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

Facilities for Sensory Impaired

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.
Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time of goods and services purchased by households. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which covers households of wage earners and clerical workers that comprise approximately 28 percent of the total population and (2) the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical worker households, 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 CPIs are based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected each month 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. Prices of fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits or telephone calls of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights, which represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. For the CPI-U and CPI-W separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period. For the C-CPI-U data are issued only at the national level. It is important to note that the CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, but the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and subject to two annual revisions.

The index measures price change from a designed reference date. For the CPI-U and the CPI-W the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. The reference base for the C-CPI-U is December 1999 equals 100. An increase of 16.5 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 116.500. 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 visit the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi/ or contact our CPI Information and Analysis Section on (202) 691-7000.