

News

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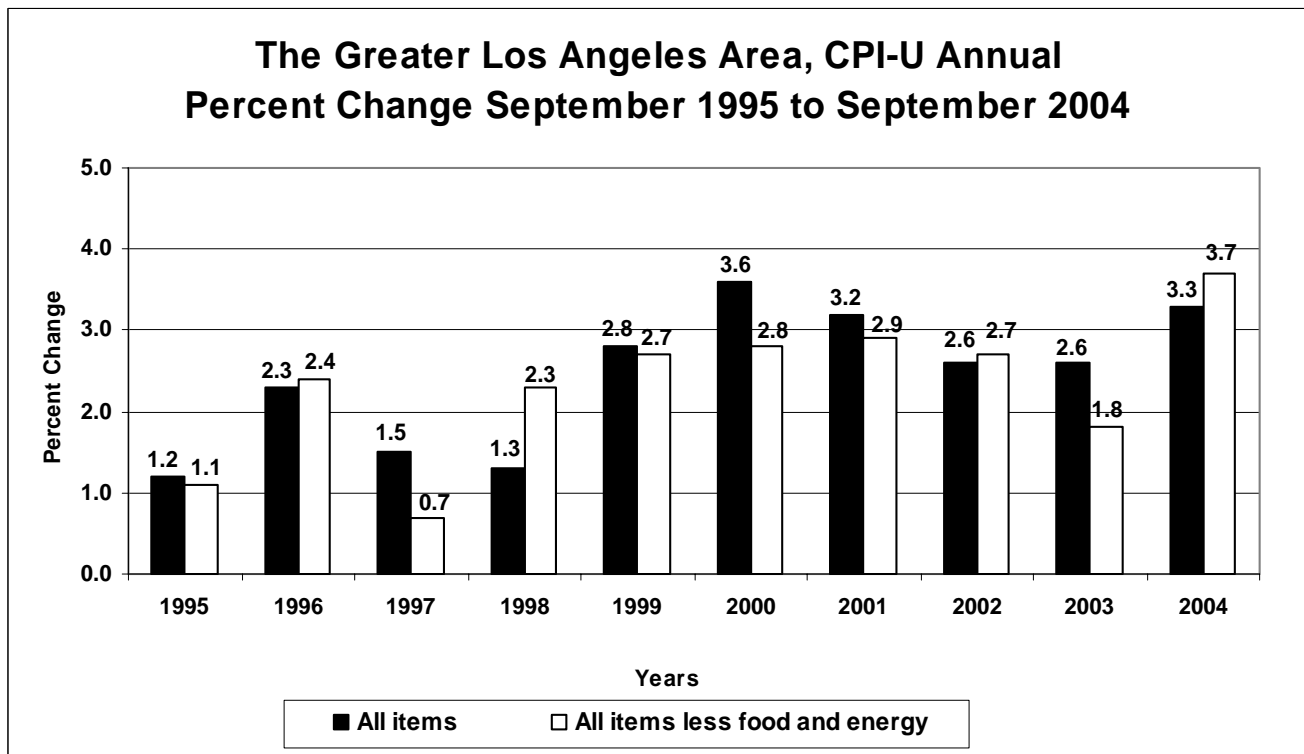
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FOR RELEASE:
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LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES INCREASE 0.7 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER 2004

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that average consumer prices in the greater Los Angeles area increased 0.7 percent from August to September. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said housing and transportation contributed largely to the overall increase in September. During the past 12 months, the all items index rose 3.3 percent. The all items less food and energy index advanced 3.7 percent over the past year, nearly double the 1.9 percent increase for the West region during this period. Local area data are not seasonally adjusted.



The housing index increased 0.5 percent for the month and was 5.1 percent higher than 12 months ago. This follows a 5.2 percent increase in housing prices for the year-ending August 2004, when Los Angeles had the largest increase in housing prices nationwide among ten major metropolitan areas published in August. On a year-over basis, housing's sub-index shelter has shown a steady increase from 3.1 percent in January 2004 to 6.0 percent in September 2004. The change in shelter prices for the annual period ending September exceeds the August 2004 change of 5.6 percent. The year-over increase in shelter prices for August 2004 was the largest increase in shelter prices nationwide among 14 major metropolitan areas published in August. Household fuels and utilities decreased 1.9 percent since August but the overall level was 3.8 percent higher than in September 2003. Household furnishings and operations increased 0.3 percent for the month, but declined 0.9 percent in the past 12 months.

Transportation prices increased 1.0 percent for the month, and have risen 2.3 percent over the past 12 months. Gasoline prices increased 0.3 percent in August, and were 1.9 percent higher for the year. Since September 1998, gasoline prices have increased 80.4 percent.

Food and beverages prices were essentially unchanged for the month. Grocery prices, measured as food at home, decreased 0.5 percent, while food away from home increased 0.4 percent in September. For the year, grocery prices and food away from home increased 1.8 and 1.9 percent, respectively. Prices for alcoholic beverages advanced 1.7 percent for the month and were 1.1 percent higher than a year ago. Overall food and beverages prices increased 1.9 percent since September 2003.

Apparel prices in the Los Angeles area showed an increase of 3.6 percent, the largest monthly change of any major expenditure category. Conversely, the apparel index was the only major expenditure category with a decrease over the past year (-2.0 percent).

Education and communication prices increased 2.7 percent for the month, the second largest monthly change of any major expenditure category. Since September 2003, education and communication prices have advanced by 4.7 percent.

Average recreation prices in the greater Los Angeles area were not significantly changed over the month. Since September 2003, however, the recreation index has increased by 1.3 percent.

Medical care prices advanced 0.4 percent from August to September. Compared to a year ago, medical care prices have increased 2.0 percent.

The other goods and services index increased 0.2 percent in September. For the past 12 months, the index has increased 1.0 percent.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, measured 194.5 on the 1982-84=100 reference base. This indicates a market basket of goods and services costing \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$194.50 in September 2004.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.

Voice phone 202-691-5200

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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—		
	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Sep. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004
Expenditure category						
All items	193.4	193.1	194.5	3.3	0.6	0.7
All items (1967=100)	571.4	570.4	574.5	-	-	-
Food and beverages	196.8	195.0	195.1	1.9	-.9	.1
Food	195.3	193.3	193.2	2.0	-1.1	-1.1
Food at home	206.9	203.4	202.3	1.8	-2.2	-.5
Food away from home	179.0	178.6	179.4	1.9	.2	.4
Alcoholic beverages	206.0	207.4	211.0	1.1	2.4	1.7
Housing	201.0	201.7	202.7	5.1	.8	.5
Shelter	222.5	223.5	225.2	6.0	1.2	.8
Rent of primary residence ¹	221.2	223.2	224.5	6.9	1.5	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	232.9	234.5	235.1	5.0	.9	.3
Fuels and utilities	186.9	187.8	184.2	3.8	-1.4	-1.9
Fuels	184.2	185.1	179.1	2.6	-2.8	-3.2
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	183.9	184.9	179.1	2.5	-2.6	-3.1
Electricity ¹	181.2	186.8	186.8	.3	3.1	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	206.1	200.7	186.3	2.9	-9.6	-7.2
Household furnishings and operations	122.1	121.0	121.4	-.9	-.6	.3
Apparel	101.6	102.9	106.6	-2.0	4.9	3.6
Transportation	167.0	165.0	166.6	2.3	-.2	1.0
Private transportation	161.5	159.9	161.3	2.5	-.1	.9
Motor fuel	172.3	163.3	163.8	2.0	-4.9	.3
Gasoline (all types)	168.7	159.9	160.4	1.9	-4.9	.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	167.6	158.6	159.0	1.8	-5.1	.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	161.7	153.4	154.2	2.1	-4.6	.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	164.4	156.5	157.2	2.3	-4.4	.4
Medical care	300.9	300.7	301.9	2.0	.3	.4
Recreation ⁵	113.2	112.0	112.1	1.3	-1.0	.1
Education and communication ⁵	110.5	111.5	114.5	4.7	3.6	2.7
Other goods and services	302.4	302.1	302.8	1.0	.1	.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	193.4	193.1	194.5	3.3	.6	.7
Commodities	155.2	153.4	154.5	-.1	-.5	.7
Commodities less food and beverages	130.4	128.8	130.2	-1.5	-.2	1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	151.4	149.0	151.0	-.2	-.3	1.3
Durables	108.6	107.6	108.5	-1.9	-.1	.8
Services	226.4	227.3	229.0	5.4	1.1	.7
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	188.1	187.8	189.2	3.4	.6	.7
All items less shelter	181.2	180.2	181.5	1.9	.2	.7
Commodities less food	134.0	132.4	133.9	-1.4	-.1	1.1
Nondurables	175.6	173.4	174.5	-.9	-.6	.6
Nondurables less food	156.4	154.1	156.2	-.2	-.1	1.4
Services less rent of shelter ²	239.6	240.3	241.9	4.4	1.0	.7
Services less medical care services	220.0	220.9	222.6	5.5	1.2	.8
Energy	177.4	171.7	170.0	2.8	-4.2	-1.0
All items less energy	196.2	196.3	197.9	3.5	.9	.8
All items less food and energy	196.8	197.2	199.2	3.7	1.2	1.0

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.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

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