

# News

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## **LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES RISE 0.5 PERCENT IN APRIL**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the April 2008 All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area increased 0.5 percent in April, compared to a 1.0 percent increase for March. The annual increase for the year ending April 2008 was 3.1 percent, compared to a 3.3 percent increase for the year ending March 2008. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the housing index provided the largest contribution to the over-the-year gain. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index, which comprises 46 percent of the Los Angeles area's All Items index, was unchanged in April, yet has increased 2.5 percent compared to 12 months ago. Shelter, household fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations are all components of the housing index. Shelter declined 0.1 percent over the month, but advanced 2.8 percent over the year. Household fuels and utilities increased 1.4 percent for the month and advanced 7.2 percent since April 2007. Within household fuels and utilities, prices for the utility (piped) gas service index rose 4.5 percent and electricity prices increased 0.2 percent during April. Since April 2007, the utility (piped) gas service index rose 27.8 percent, but electricity prices decreased 1.6 percent. Meanwhile, household furnishings and operations declined 0.7 percent in April and 3.4 percent from a year ago. The annual decrease for household furnishings and operations was the largest since April 2004.

Transportation costs in Los Angeles increased by 1.9 percent in April and 5.1 percent over the past 12 months, the largest monthly and annual increases among all major CPI expenditure categories. Within transportation, gasoline prices advanced 6.5 percent over the past month and 14.6 percent over the past year.

The Los Angeles area's food and beverages index, which accounts for approximately 13 percent of the Los Angeles All Items index, grew 0.2 percent in April and was 3.1 percent higher than last year's level. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, advanced 0.6 percent in April and increased 4.0 percent from a year ago. Food away from home prices were down 0.5 percent in April, but were up 1.9 percent since April 2007. Additionally, prices for alcoholic beverages rose 1.9 percent over the past month and 4.6 percent over the past year.

Out-of-pocket medical care prices edged up 0.1 percent in April and increased 3.6 percent over the past year.

The apparel index, which represents 3.3 percent of the All Items index for Los Angeles, increased 1.5 percent over the past month and 2.0 percent over the past year.

The Los Angeles area education and communication index was unchanged in April, yet has increased 3.7 percent over the past year.

Among the remaining major expenditure categories, the recreation index was unchanged, while the other good and services index grew 0.9 percent between March and April. Over the past year, recreation prices were up 0.3 percent and other goods and services prices rose 3.8 percent.

The All Items less food and energy special aggregate index was unchanged in April, after rising 0.3 percent in March. Over the past 12 months, the index has advanced 2.1 percent. Additionally, the special energy aggregate index was up 5.0 percent in April and stood 12.5 percent higher than in April 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 224.625 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$224.63 in April 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—		
	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	221.431	223.606	224.625	3.1	1.4	0.5
All items (1967=100) .....	654.206	660.633	663.643	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	217.425	216.825	217.287	3.1	-.1	.2
Food .....	216.167	215.662	215.876	3.1	-.1	.1
Food at home .....	227.326	227.018	228.342	4.0	.4	.6
Food away from home .....	199.643	198.940	197.970	1.9	-.8	-.5
Alcoholic beverages .....	222.811	220.806	224.987	4.6	1.0	1.9
Housing .....	241.449	242.451	242.426	2.5	.4	.0
Shelter .....	270.727	271.427	271.233	2.8	.2	-.1
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	272.321	272.145	272.234	4.2	.0	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	281.303	281.970	282.751	3.6	.5	.3
Fuels and utilities .....	241.341	247.303	250.800	7.2	3.9	1.4
Household energy .....	243.523	251.793	255.972	7.5	5.1	1.7
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	242.153	250.003	254.157	6.9	5.0	1.7
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	261.209	263.225	263.725	-1.6	1.0	.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	234.672	254.506	266.077	27.8	13.4	4.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	125.902	126.025	125.197	-3.4	-.6	-.7
Apparel .....	106.471	107.090	108.732	2.0	2.1	1.5
Transportation .....	185.158	193.074	196.663	5.1	6.2	1.9
Private transportation .....	179.660	187.014	191.310	5.6	6.5	2.3
Motor fuel .....	246.194	277.009	295.134	14.9	19.9	6.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	240.688	270.833	288.558	14.6	19.9	6.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	240.529	271.434	289.394	15.0	20.3	6.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	228.539	256.136	273.003	14.4	19.5	6.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	231.004	258.462	274.610	13.8	18.9	6.2
Medical care .....	351.109	351.278	351.494	3.6	.1	.1
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	114.174	114.520	114.504	.3	.3	.0
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	123.634	123.997	124.014	3.7	.3	.0
Other goods and services .....	338.314	337.592	340.482	3.8	.6	.9
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	221.431	223.606	224.625	3.1	1.4	.5
Commodities .....	168.716	171.466	173.633	3.1	2.9	1.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	140.557	144.292	146.910	2.9	4.5	1.8
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	177.539	186.746	192.517	7.4	8.4	3.1
Durables .....	104.751	104.366	104.577	-2.5	-.2	.2
Services .....	267.290	268.838	268.695	3.1	.5	-.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	215.189	217.399	218.430	3.1	1.5	.5
All items less shelter .....	199.910	202.760	204.330	3.3	2.2	.8
Commodities less food .....	144.400	148.068	150.758	3.0	4.4	1.8
Nondurables .....	199.453	204.377	207.845	5.4	4.2	1.7
Nondurables less food .....	182.245	191.039	196.815	7.3	8.0	3.0
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	269.600	272.502	272.437	3.5	1.1	.0
Services less medical care services .....	259.836	261.405	261.271	3.1	.6	-.1
Energy .....	246.512	269.927	283.468	12.5	15.0	5.0
All items less energy .....	221.376	221.937	222.002	2.3	.3	.0
All items less food and energy .....	222.762	223.499	223.540	2.1	.3	.0

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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