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MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic

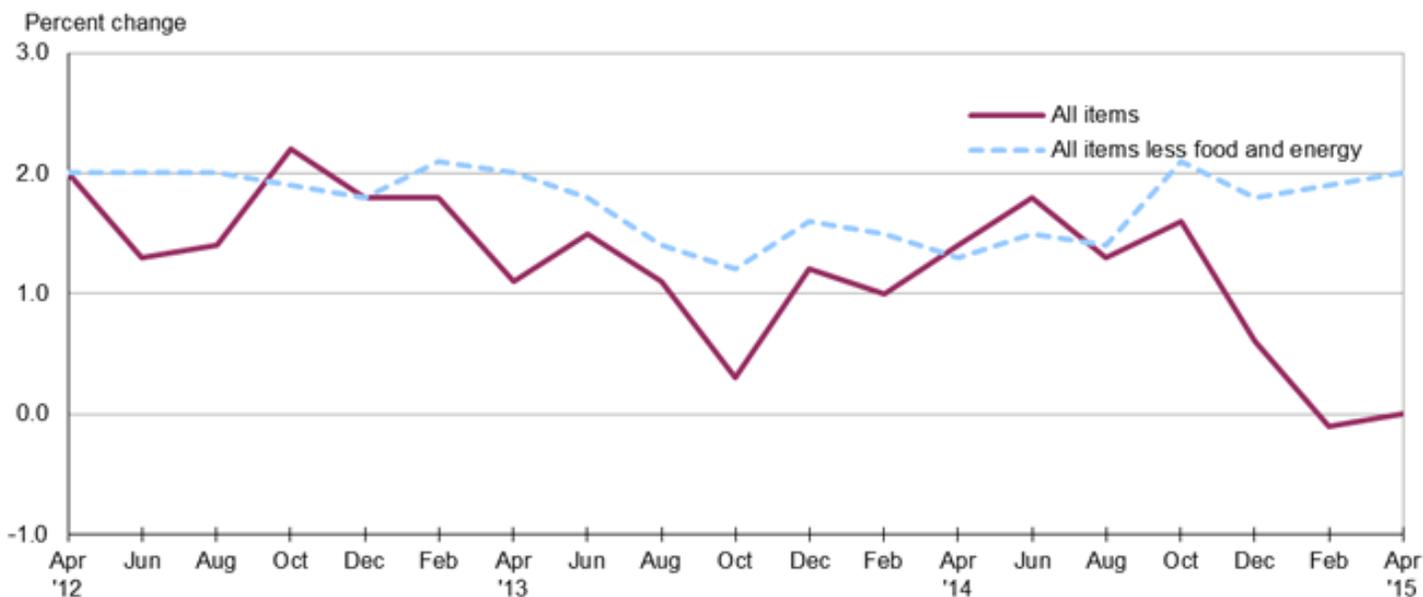
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Consumer Price Index, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City – April 2015 **Area prices up 0.5 percent since February and unchanged over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City advanced 0.5 percent over the last two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted the advance was the first bimonthly increase for the all items index since June 2014. The recent increase was led by a 0.3-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index. The food index and energy index also rose since February, up 1.1 and 1.7 percent, respectively. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U was unchanged, the first time this index has recorded no change over the year since 1959. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) A 2.0-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index and a 2.3-percent increase in the food index were offset by a 19.1-percent decrease in the energy index since April 2014. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Philadelphia, April 2012–April 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

After decreasing 1.5 percent from December to February, the food index increased 1.1 percent over the last two months. Food at home prices rose 1.7 percent and food away from home prices edged up 0.3 percent.

Food prices rose 2.3 percent over the year, as prices for both components also increased. Prices for food at home advanced 3.1 percent and those for food away from home increased 1.4 percent since last April.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, rose 1.7 percent since February, led by an 8.0-percent advance in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity both declined since February, down 4.7 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

Energy prices fell 19.1 percent since April 2014, due mostly to a 31.3-percent drop in gasoline prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices also declined since April 2014, down 11.8 percent—the largest over-the-year decline for the index since February 2010. Electricity prices increased, up 0.6 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent since February, reflecting higher prices for medical care (1.3 percent), household furnishings and operations (2.0 percent), and shelter (0.2 percent). Moderating the increase in the all items less food and energy index were lower prices for apparel, down 5.1 percent.

Since April 2014, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.0 percent. The advance was due largely to an over-the-year increase in the shelter index, up 3.1 percent, as the owners' equivalent rent of residences index was up 2.7 percent. Higher prices for medical care (6.0 percent), among others, also contributed to the rise. Lower prices for apparel (-7.2 percent) and other goods and services (-1.0 percent) moderated the increase in the all items less food and energy index since last April.

Table A. Philadelphia CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	2-month	12-month								
February	1.3	1.9	0.7	2.2	0.7	1.8	0.5	1.0	-0.2	-0.1
April	1.0	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.1	1.1	0.5	1.4	0.5	0.0
June	0.6	2.8	-0.2	1.3	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.8		
August	0.7	3.4	0.9	1.4	0.5	1.1	0.0	1.3		
October	-0.3	3.0	0.4	2.2	-0.4	0.3	-0.1	1.6		
December	-0.5	2.8	-0.9	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.8	0.6		

The Consumer Price Index for June 2015 is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 17, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City is published bi-monthly. 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 approximately 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 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.

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 **Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
All items		242.424		243.717	0.0	0.5	
All items (1967 = 100)		700.349		704.085			
Food and beverages		229.054		231.093	2.4	0.9	
Food		228.428		230.946	2.3	1.1	
Food at home		238.770	243.614	242.823	3.1	1.7	-0.3
Food away from home		209.123		209.850	1.4	0.3	
Alcoholic beverages		234.479		230.393	2.9	-1.7	
Housing		249.883		250.080	1.6	0.1	
Shelter		306.925	307.273	307.555	3.1	0.2	0.1
Rent of primary residence (1)		288.113	288.356	288.713	3.6	0.2	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences (1) (2) (3)		314.303	314.775	315.462	2.7	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) (3)		314.303	314.775	315.462	2.7	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities		210.007		205.797	-5.5	-2.0	
Household energy		178.299	174.481	173.775	-7.0	-2.5	-0.4
Gas (piped) and electricity (1)		189.616	184.131	185.284	-3.2	-2.3	0.6
Electricity (1)		195.869	191.236	193.269	0.6	-1.3	1.1
Utility (piped) gas service (1)		169.593	162.474	161.700	-11.8	-4.7	-0.5
Household furnishings and operations		115.207		117.470	-0.3	2.0	
Apparel		113.050		107.340	-7.2	-5.1	
Transportation		199.403		204.717	-8.9	2.7	
Private transportation		197.407		203.223	-8.8	2.9	
Motor fuel		203.966	217.148	220.296	-31.3	8.0	1.4
Gasoline (all types)		200.983	213.952	217.160	-31.3	8.0	1.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4)		199.028	212.185	215.447	-31.8	8.2	1.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5)		204.675	215.734	218.588	-29.8	6.8	1.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4)		199.572	211.383	214.185	-28.6	7.3	1.3
Medical care		486.549		492.667	6.0	1.3	
Recreation (6)		123.830		125.434	0.3	1.3	
Education and communication (6)		132.674		132.763	0.5	0.1	
Other goods and services		460.706		464.857	-1.0	0.9	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		175.847		177.536	-4.1	1.0	
Commodities less food and beverages		146.453		147.933	-8.1	1.0	
Nondurables less food and beverages		181.530		182.840	-11.0	0.7	
Durables		106.560		108.189	-2.4	1.5	
Services		310.333		311.300	2.3	0.3	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		221.614		223.206	-1.6	0.7	
All items less medical care		232.170		233.272	-0.5	0.5	
Commodities less food		149.575		150.882	-7.6	0.9	
Nondurables		206.192		207.860	-4.5	0.8	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Nondurables less food.....		184.637		185.628	-10.1	0.5	
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾		320.771		322.167	1.3	0.4	
Services less medical care services.....		296.631		297.112	2.0	0.2	
Energy		187.793	190.225	190.936	-19.1	1.7	0.4
All items less energy		250.273		251.372	2.0	0.4	
All items less food and energy		256.614		257.463	2.0	0.3	

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

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