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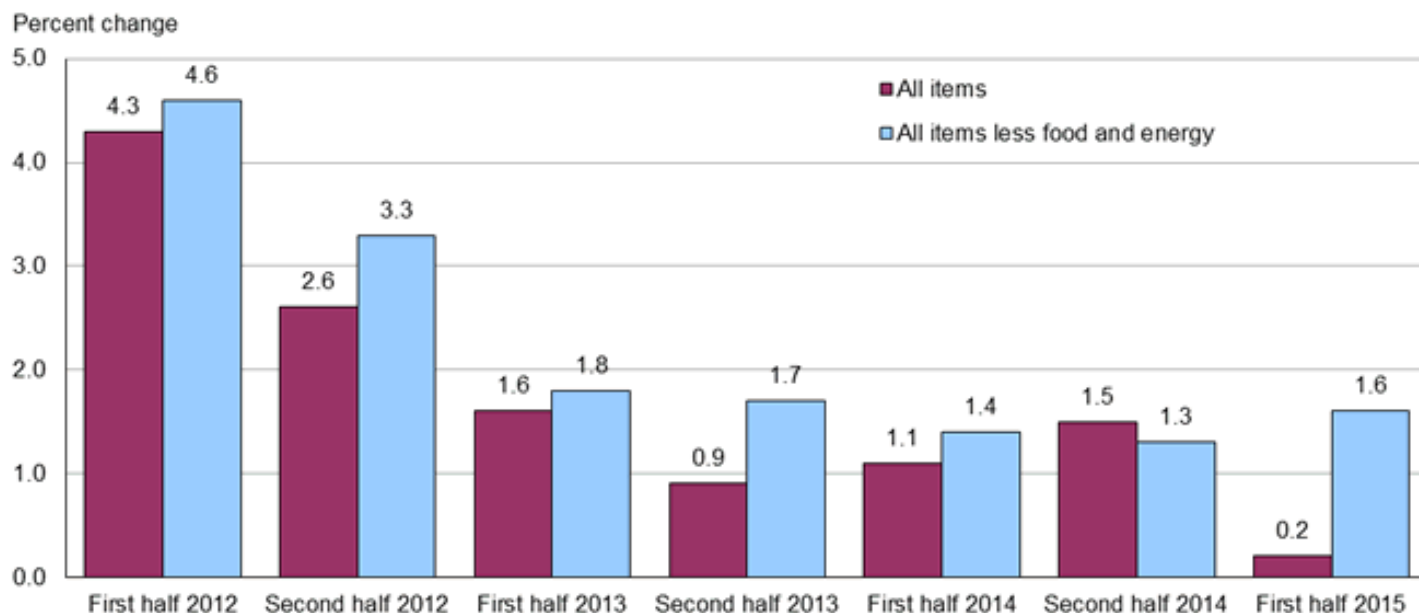
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Consumer Price Index, Pittsburgh – First Half 2015

Local prices up 0.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Pittsburgh area advanced 0.2 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the all items less food and energy index rose 1.6 percent from the first half of 2014. (See [chart 1.](#)) Food prices rose 2.4 percent over the year, while energy prices dropped 14.9 percent.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Pittsburgh, first half 2012–first half 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 2.4 percent since the first half of 2014, led by a 2.7-percent increase in prices for food at home. Prices for food away from home also rose, up 1.8 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, fell 14.9 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, due almost entirely to a 28.3-percent drop in gasoline prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also declined (-7.4 percent), while prices for electricity increased (13.6 percent) over the year.

All items less food and energy

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. Price increases were led by shelter, up 3.2 percent, particularly the owners' equivalent rent of residences component which rose 3.7 percent. Moderating the 12-month increase in the all items less food and energy index were lower prices for recreation, down 2.0 percent, and apparel, down 1.7 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for the second half of 2015 is scheduled to be released in January 2016.

Technical Note

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 **Pittsburgh, Pa.** metropolitan statistical area covered in this release is comprised of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania.





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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods, Pittsburgh, PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Expenditure category | Indexes | | | | Percent change from | |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Historical data | 1st Half 2014 | 2nd Half 2014 | 1st Half 2015 | 1st Half 2014 | 2nd Half 2014 |
| All items |  | 238.663 | 239.249 | 239.232 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Food and beverages |  | 247.931 | 251.685 | 253.727 | 2.3 | 0.8 |
| Food |  | 247.450 | 251.302 | 253.446 | 2.4 | 0.9 |
| Food at home |  | 243.562 | 247.861 | 250.170 | 2.7 | 0.9 |
| Food away from home |  | 255.408 | 258.681 | 260.064 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| Alcoholic beverages |  | 254.478 | 257.078 | 257.924 | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| Housing |  | 234.892 | 239.211 | 241.078 | 2.6 | 0.8 |
| Shelter |  | 262.980 | 268.089 | 271.328 | 3.2 | 1.2 |
| Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ |  | 229.548 | 232.495 | 232.968 | 1.5 | 0.2 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ |  | 261.258 | 266.886 | 270.838 | 3.7 | 1.5 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ |  | 261.258 | 266.886 | 270.838 | 3.7 | 1.5 |
| Fuels and utilities |  | 245.966 | 250.513 | 246.825 | 0.3 | -1.5 |
| Household energy |  | 224.112 | 229.977 | 224.434 | 0.1 | -2.4 |
| Energy services ⁽¹⁾ |  | 208.401 | 218.774 | 218.358 | 4.8 | -0.2 |
| Electricity ⁽¹⁾ |  | 163.206 | 182.393 | 185.337 | 13.6 | 1.6 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾ |  | 237.711 | 227.273 | 220.216 | -7.4 | -3.1 |
| Household furnishings and operations |  | 146.939 | 148.479 | 148.549 | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| Apparel |  | 152.905 | 154.048 | 150.354 | -1.7 | -2.4 |
| Transportation |  | 198.608 | 192.908 | 183.089 | -7.8 | -5.1 |
| Private transportation |  | 196.486 | 191.135 | 179.570 | -8.6 | -6.1 |
| Motor fuel |  | 326.615 | 300.549 | 234.225 | -28.3 | -22.1 |
| Gasoline (all types) |  | 329.848 | 303.533 | 236.472 | -28.3 | -22.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾ |  | 327.346 | 300.383 | 233.077 | -28.8 | -22.4 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾ |  | 351.948 | 326.187 | 256.035 | -27.3 | -21.5 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾ |  | 314.538 | 292.338 | 231.662 | -26.3 | -20.8 |
| Medical care |  | 462.432 | 449.069 | 463.968 | 0.3 | 3.3 |
| Recreation ⁽⁵⁾ |  | 119.347 | 115.930 | 117.018 | -2.0 | 0.9 |
| Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾ |  | 145.770 | 146.310 | 147.150 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Other goods and services |  | 403.483 | 410.828 | 418.442 | 3.7 | 1.9 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | |
| Commodities |  | 207.827 | 205.905 | 200.652 | -3.5 | -2.6 |
| Commodities less food and beverages |  | 184.977 | 180.472 | 171.969 | -7.0 | -4.7 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages |  | 242.565 | 235.160 | 216.670 | -10.7 | -7.9 |
| Durables |  | 124.423 | 122.666 | 123.218 | -1.0 | 0.5 |
| Services |  | 273.070 | 275.645 | 279.737 | 2.4 | 1.5 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care |  | 227.833 | 228.985 | 228.359 | 0.2 | -0.3 |
| All items less shelter |  | 232.362 | 231.041 | 229.605 | -1.2 | -0.6 |
| Commodities less food |  | 187.631 | 183.367 | 175.178 | -6.6 | -4.5 |
| Nondurables |  | 245.841 | 243.929 | 235.510 | -4.2 | -3.5 |
| Nondurables less food |  | 243.317 | 236.617 | 219.487 | -9.8 | -7.2 |
| Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾ |  | 290.199 | 289.943 | 294.801 | 1.6 | 1.7 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods, Pittsburgh, PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

| Expenditure category | Indexes | | | | Percent change from | |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Historical data | 1st Half 2014 | 2nd Half 2014 | 1st Half 2015 | 1st Half 2014 | 2nd Half 2014 |
| Services less medical care services..... |  | 259.535 | 263.183 | 266.121 | 2.5 | 1.1 |
| Energy |  | 277.082 | 268.833 | 235.896 | -14.9 | -12.3 |
| All items less energy |  | 237.122 | 238.455 | 241.129 | 1.7 | 1.1 |
| All items less food and energy |  | 236.245 | 237.177 | 239.945 | 1.6 | 1.2 |

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January 1999.

(2) Indexes 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.

Note: Index applies to a 6-month period as a whole, not to any specific date.