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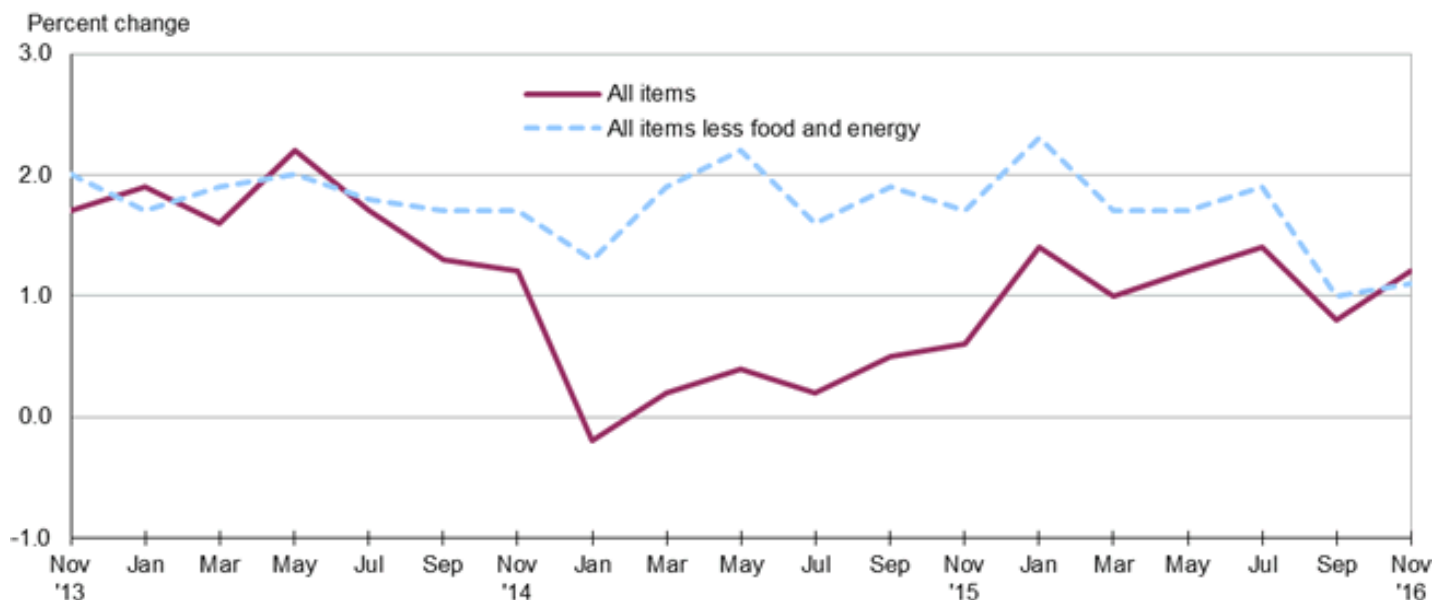
Consumer Price Index, Washington-Baltimore – November 2016

Area prices up 0.1 percent since September and 1.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Washington-Baltimore increased 0.1 percent over the last two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted the increase was led by a 0.1-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index. The food index also increased, up 0.4 percent, while the energy index decreased 1.3 percent over the last two months. (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 increased 1.2 percent, due mostly to a 1.1-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Since November 2015, both the energy index and food index increased, up 3.9 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Washington, D.C., November 2013–November 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

After decreasing 0.1 percent from July to September, the food index rose 0.4 percent over the last two months. Prices for food away from home increased 1.0 percent, while those for food at home edged down 0.2 percent. Lower prices for citrus fruits and cheese and related products contributed to the two-month decrease in the food at home index.

Food prices increased 0.5 percent over the year due to higher prices for food away from home (3.3 percent). Conversely, prices for food at home declined 1.8 percent since last November.

Energy

Since September, the energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 1.3 percent, due to lower prices for electricity (-4.1 percent). Prices for both utility (piped) gas service and gasoline increased over the last two months, up 3.1 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively.

Energy prices rose 3.9 percent over the year, reflecting higher prices for gasoline (4.1 percent), electricity (2.5 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (9.6 percent) since last November.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent since September. An increase in recreation prices (2.4 percent) and those for education and communication (0.4 percent) were offset by lower prices for lodging away from home and a 3.4 percent decrease in apparel prices, among others.

Since November 2015, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.1 percent. The increase was due largely to an over-the-year rise in shelter prices (1.5 percent). Higher prices for apparel (10.1 percent), among others, also contributed to the rise.

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.4	2.7	0.1	1.8	0.4	1.9	-1.0	-0.2	-0.2	1.4
March	1.3	2.8	0.9	1.4	0.6	1.6	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.0
May.....	0.1	1.8	-0.2	1.2	0.4	2.2	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.2
July	-0.2	1.4	0.5	1.9	0.0	1.7	-0.2	0.2	-0.1	1.4
September.....	1.3	2.8	0.6	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.8
November.....	-0.7	2.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.2	-0.3	0.6	0.1	1.2

The Consumer Price Index for January 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Washington-Baltimore 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/pdf/homch17.pdf.

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 **Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the counties of Berkeley and Jefferson in West Virginia.





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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., (December 1997=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
All items(1)		157.572		157.706	1.2	0.1	
Food and beverages(1)		156.774		157.403	0.5	0.4	
Food(1)		158.209		158.843	0.5	0.4	
Food at home		146.767	147.078	146.545	-1.8	-0.2	-0.4
Food away from home(2)		170.184		171.955	3.3	1.0	
Alcoholic beverages(2)		136.666		137.224	0.3	0.4	
Housing(1)		171.416		170.965	1.4	-0.3	
Shelter		183.248	183.164	183.115	1.5	-0.1	0.0
Rent of primary residence(1)(3)		202.957	203.283	203.513	1.6	0.3	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(3)(4)		183.127	183.243	183.627	1.5	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(3)(4)		183.112	183.226	183.609	1.5	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities		195.217		191.569	3.7	-1.9	
Household energy		184.166	179.272	179.715	3.8	-2.4	0.2
Gas (piped) and electricity(3)		177.633	172.826	172.731	3.7	-2.8	-0.1
Electricity(3)		192.310	186.099	184.512	2.5	-4.1	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service(3)		117.652	117.252	121.290	9.6	3.1	3.4
Household furnishings and operations		86.746		86.566	-2.6	-0.2	
Apparel(1)		109.060		105.392	10.1	-3.4	
Transportation(1)		138.254		138.868	0.9	0.4	
Private transportation		136.632		137.215	1.7	0.4	
Motor fuel		191.616	194.778	192.060	4.1	0.2	-1.4
Gasoline (all types)		191.374	194.623	191.862	4.1	0.3	-1.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)		189.246	192.523	189.513	4.2	0.1	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)		205.392	208.056	207.116	4.7	0.8	-0.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)		212.033	215.180	214.490	5.3	1.2	-0.3
Medical care(1)		184.673		185.330	2.3	0.4	
Recreation		114.810		117.556	-0.2	2.4	
Education and communication		151.462		152.106	-0.9	0.4	
Other goods and services(1)		179.701		179.628	0.3	0.0	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		125.952		125.686	0.5	-0.2	
Commodities less food and beverages		108.984		108.328	0.4	-0.6	
Nondurables less food and beverages		139.551		138.065	3.3	-1.1	
Durables		78.254		78.168	-2.3	-0.1	
Services		178.880		179.297	1.6	0.2	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		144.880		145.131	1.0	0.2	
All items less medical care(1)		155.843		155.941	1.1	0.1	
Commodities less food		110.305		109.681	0.4	-0.6	
Nondurables		147.771		147.395	1.7	-0.3	
Nondurables less food		139.512		138.166	3.1	-1.0	
Services less rent of shelter		174.710		175.725	1.6	0.6	

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, Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., (December 1997=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Services less medical care services.....		178.173		178.477	1.4	0.2	
Energy(1).....		186.935	185.403	184.530	3.9	-1.3	-0.5
All items less energy		154.437		154.707	1.0	0.2	
All items less food and energy(1).....		154.799		155.017	1.1	0.1	

Footnotes (1) Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a November 1997=100 base.

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

(4) 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.

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

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