



For Release: Friday, May 12, 2017

17-638-PHI

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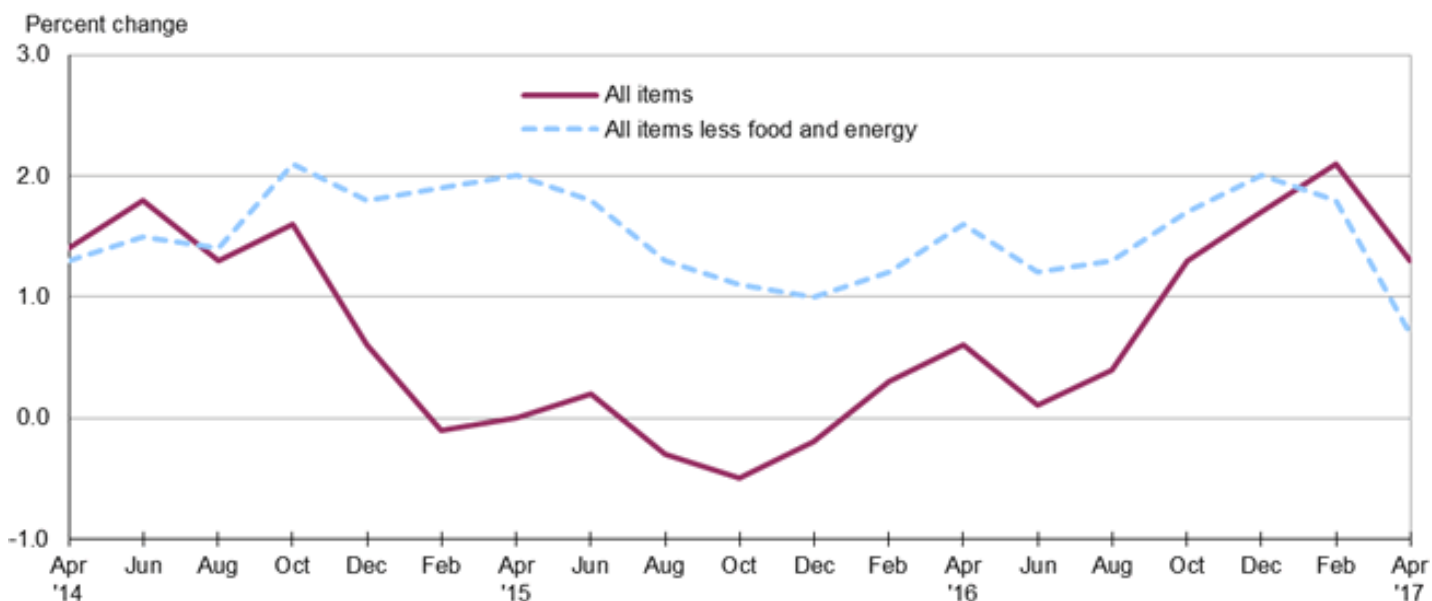
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Consumer Price Index, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City – April 2017 **Area prices unchanged since February; up 1.3 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City was unchanged from February to April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that lower prices for all items less food and energy (-0.3 percent) were offset by higher prices for energy (2.6 percent) and food (1.0 percent) since February. (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 1.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The over-the-year rise was led by increases in the energy index (8.1 percent) and the all items less food and energy index (0.7 percent). Prices for food also rose since April 2016, up 1.3 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Philadelphia, April 2014–April 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Following a 0.7-percent rise from December to February, the food index increased 1.0 percent over the last two months. Prices were higher for both food at home (1.3 percent) and food away from home (0.5 percent) since February. Within the food at home component, higher prices for various items including nonfrozen noncarbonated juices and drinks and uncooked beef steaks were moderated by lower prices for ice cream and related products and uncooked ground beef, among others.

Over the year, the food index increased 1.3 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.1 percent and those for food at home increased 0.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, advanced 2.6 percent since February. This was due largely to higher prices for gasoline, up 4.1 percent over the last two months. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also increased since February, up 5.6 percent, while those for electricity declined, down 0.3 percent.

Over the year, the energy index rose 8.1 percent, led by an 18.0-percent advance in gasoline prices. Prices were also higher for utility (piped) gas service (6.5 percent), while those for electricity declined 3.1 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.3 percent from February to April, led by lower prices for education and communication (-3.7 percent) and new vehicles. Higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent) moderated the decrease in the all items less food and energy index since February.

Since April 2016, the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.7 percent. This was largely due to higher prices for shelter (2.4 percent). Lower prices for education and communication (-3.1 percent), among others, moderated the 12-month increase in the all items less food and energy index.

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

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.7	1.8	0.5	1.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.3	0.7	2.1
April	0.1	1.1	0.5	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.0	1.3
June	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.1		
August	0.5	1.1	0.0	1.3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.3		
October	-0.4	0.3	-0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.5	0.6	1.3		
December	0.1	1.2	-0.8	0.6	-0.6	-0.2	-0.1	1.7		

The Consumer Price Index for June 2017 is scheduled to be released Friday, July 14, 2017 at 8:30 am (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/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 **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. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
All items.....		248.345		248.411	1.3	0.0	
All items (1967 = 100).....		717.455		717.645			
Food and beverages.....		231.922		233.970	1.4	0.9	
Food.....		231.542		233.858	1.3	1.0	
Food at home.....		238.144	238.133	241.290	0.8	1.3	1.3
Food away from home.....		217.186		218.358	2.1	0.5	
Alcoholic beverages.....		233.427		232.295	1.9	-0.5	
Housing.....		253.897		255.271	2.1	0.5	
Shelter.....		316.102	316.368	317.426	2.4	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1).....		292.817	293.477	294.273	1.8	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2)(3).....		324.536	325.456	325.946	2.3	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2)(3).....		324.536	325.456	325.946	2.3	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....		199.955		202.452	1.7	1.2	
Household energy.....		165.944	167.231	168.524	1.8	1.6	0.8
Gas (piped) and electricity(1).....		176.689	178.345	179.341	-0.2	1.5	0.6
Electricity(1).....		185.866	183.751	185.375	-3.1	-0.3	0.9
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....		149.608	158.150	157.928	6.5	5.6	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations.....		113.360		114.130	-0.8	0.7	
Apparel.....		114.340		113.182	0.4	-1.0	
Transportation.....		206.708		208.095	2.6	0.7	
Private transportation.....		205.142		206.312	3.7	0.6	
Motor fuel.....		218.292	212.555	227.269	18.0	4.1	6.9
Gasoline (all types).....		215.241	209.553	224.152	18.0	4.1	7.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		211.978	205.906	220.931	18.2	4.2	7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		222.553	219.057	231.506	16.7	4.0	5.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		220.597	216.998	228.526	16.8	3.6	5.3
Medical care.....		508.405		507.716	-0.8	-0.1	
Recreation(6).....		124.295		123.055	0.2	-1.0	
Education and communication(6).....		133.974		128.971	-3.1	-3.7	
Other goods and services.....		533.018		529.487	3.4	-0.7	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities.....		176.470		177.558	1.4	0.6	
Commodities less food and beverages.....		145.676		146.333	1.4	0.5	
Nondurables less food and beverages.....		185.537		187.346	4.5	1.0	
Durables.....		102.019		101.650	-3.2	-0.4	
Services.....		321.274		320.407	1.2	-0.3	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		226.331		225.924	0.7	-0.2	
All items less medical care.....		237.412		237.512	1.5	0.0	
Commodities less food.....		148.790		149.396	1.4	0.4	
Nondurables.....		209.934		211.883	2.9	0.9	
Nondurables less food.....		188.330		189.960	4.3	0.9	

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. 2017	Mar. 2017	Apr. 2017	Apr. 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		333.930		330.595	0.0	-1.0	
Services less medical care services.....		306.899		306.052	1.4	-0.3	
Energy		184.837	183.652	189.677	8.1	2.6	3.3
All items less energy		257.224		256.769	0.8	-0.2	
All items less food and energy		264.208		263.287	0.7	-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.