



For Release: Friday, July 14, 2017

17-1018-PHI

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

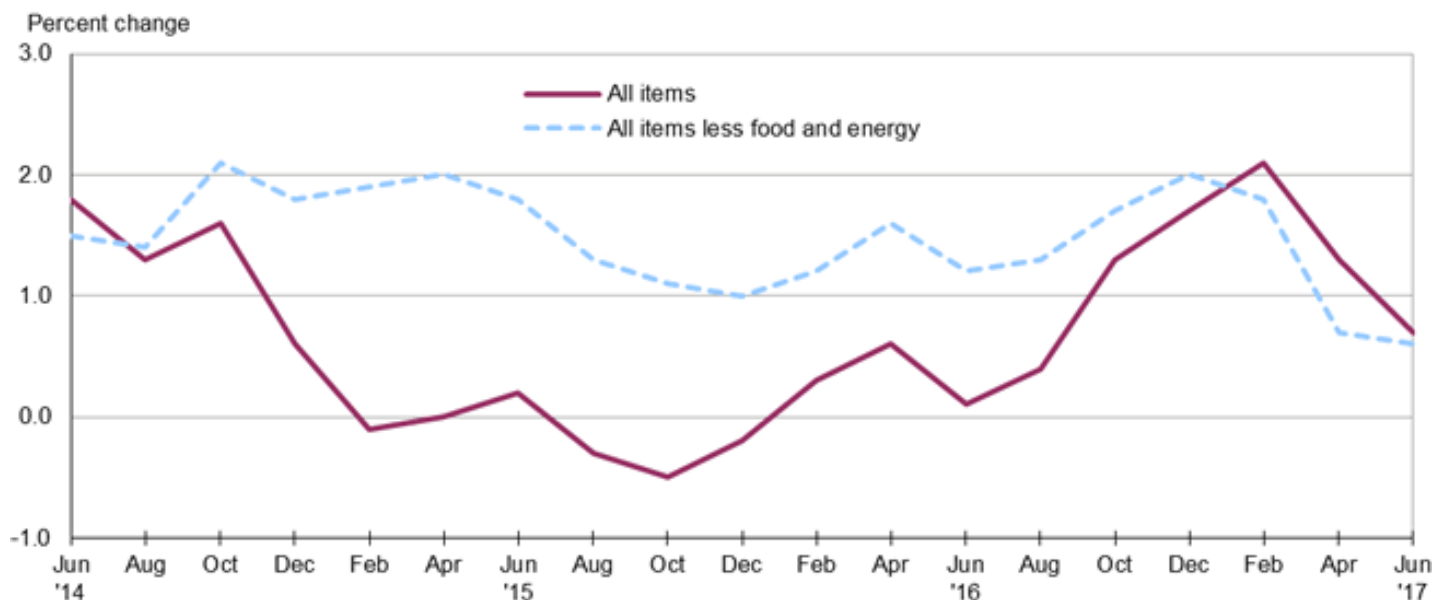
Consumer Price Index, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City – June 2017

Area prices down 0.3 percent since April; up 0.7 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City edged down 0.3 percent from April to June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that lower prices for food (-1.1 percent) and energy (-1.7 percent) contributed to the recent 2-month decline. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged since April. (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 0.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The over-the-year rise was led by increases in the all items less food and energy index (0.6 percent) and the energy index (2.6 percent). Prices for food were unchanged since June 2016. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Following a 1.0-percent rise from February to April, the food index decreased 1.1 percent over the last two months. Prices for food at home decreased 2.0 percent, while those for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent since April. Within the food at home component, lower prices for various items including lettuce and carbonated drinks were moderated by higher prices for citrus fruits.

Over the year, the food index was unchanged. Lower prices for food at home (-1.1 percent) were offset by higher prices for food away from home (1.5 percent).

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 1.7 percent since April. This was due largely to lower prices for gasoline, down 3.9 percent over the last two months. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also decreased since April, down 0.1 percent, while those for electricity increased, up 1.3 percent.

Over the year, the energy index rose 2.6 percent, led by an 5.5-percent advance in gasoline prices. Prices were also higher for utility (piped) gas service (6.9 percent), while those for electricity declined 2.6 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged from April to June. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles, along with those for medical care (0.4 percent), were offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.5 percent) and lodging away from home since April.

Since June 2016, the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent. This was largely due to higher prices for shelter (1.9 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	-0.3	0.7
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 August 2017 is scheduled to be released Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 8:30 am (ET).

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be renamed. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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.






Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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	Apr. 2017	May 2017	Jun. 2017	Jun. 2016	Apr. 2017	May 2017
All items		248.411		247.713	0.7	-0.3	
All items (1967 = 100)		717.645		715.628			
Food and beverages		233.970		231.821	0.1	-0.9	
Food		233.858		231.272	0.0	-1.1	
Food at home		241.290	239.898	236.426	-1.1	-2.0	-1.4
Food away from home		218.358		218.821	1.5	0.2	
Alcoholic beverages		232.295		235.301	1.8	1.3	
Housing		255.271		255.246	1.4	0.0	
Shelter		317.426	317.954	317.446	1.9	0.0	-0.2
Rent of primary residence(1)		294.273	294.648	295.434	1.8	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2)(3)		325.946	326.344	326.190	1.8	0.1	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2)(3)		325.946	326.344	326.190	1.8	0.1	0.0
Fuels and utilities		202.452		202.895	1.1	0.2	
Household energy		168.524	169.095	168.346	0.6	-0.1	-0.4
Gas (piped) and electricity(1)		179.341	180.420	180.876	0.2	0.9	0.3
Electricity(1)		185.375	186.888	187.794	-2.6	1.3	0.5
Utility (piped) gas service(1)		157.928	158.142	157.737	6.9	-0.1	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations		114.130		113.550	-2.7	-0.5	
Apparel		113.182		110.298	1.2	-2.5	
Transportation		208.095		206.744	1.5	-0.6	
Private transportation		206.312		205.059	2.1	-0.6	
Motor fuel		227.269	224.005	218.369	5.6	-3.9	-2.5
Gasoline (all types)		224.152	220.940	215.345	5.5	-3.9	-2.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)		220.931	217.568	211.757	5.3	-4.2	-2.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)		231.506	229.118	223.721	6.0	-3.4	-2.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)		228.526	226.217	222.572	6.6	-2.6	-1.6
Medical care		507.716		509.792	-0.3	0.4	
Recreation(6)		123.055		122.888	0.1	-0.1	
Education and communication(6)		128.971		128.915	-3.1	0.0	
Other goods and services		529.487		529.328	2.9	0.0	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		177.558		175.706	-0.2	-1.0	
Commodities less food and beverages		146.333		144.691	-0.4	-1.1	
Nondurables less food and beverages		187.346		183.649	1.6	-2.0	
Durables		101.650		101.871	-3.2	0.2	
Services		320.407		320.743	1.2	0.1	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		225.924		224.946	0.1	-0.4	
All items less medical care		237.512		236.687	0.8	-0.3	
Commodities less food		149.396		147.888	-0.3	-1.0	
Nondurables		211.883		208.832	0.8	-1.4	
Nondurables less food		189.960		186.671	1.6	-1.7	

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	Apr. 2017	May 2017	Jun. 2017	Jun. 2016	Apr. 2017	May 2017
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		330.595		331.290	0.4	0.2	
Services less medical care services.....		306.052		306.328	1.2	0.1	
Energy		189.677	188.899	186.426	2.6	-1.7	-1.3
All items less energy		256.769		256.344	0.6	-0.2	
All items less food and energy		263.287		263.217	0.6	0.0	

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.