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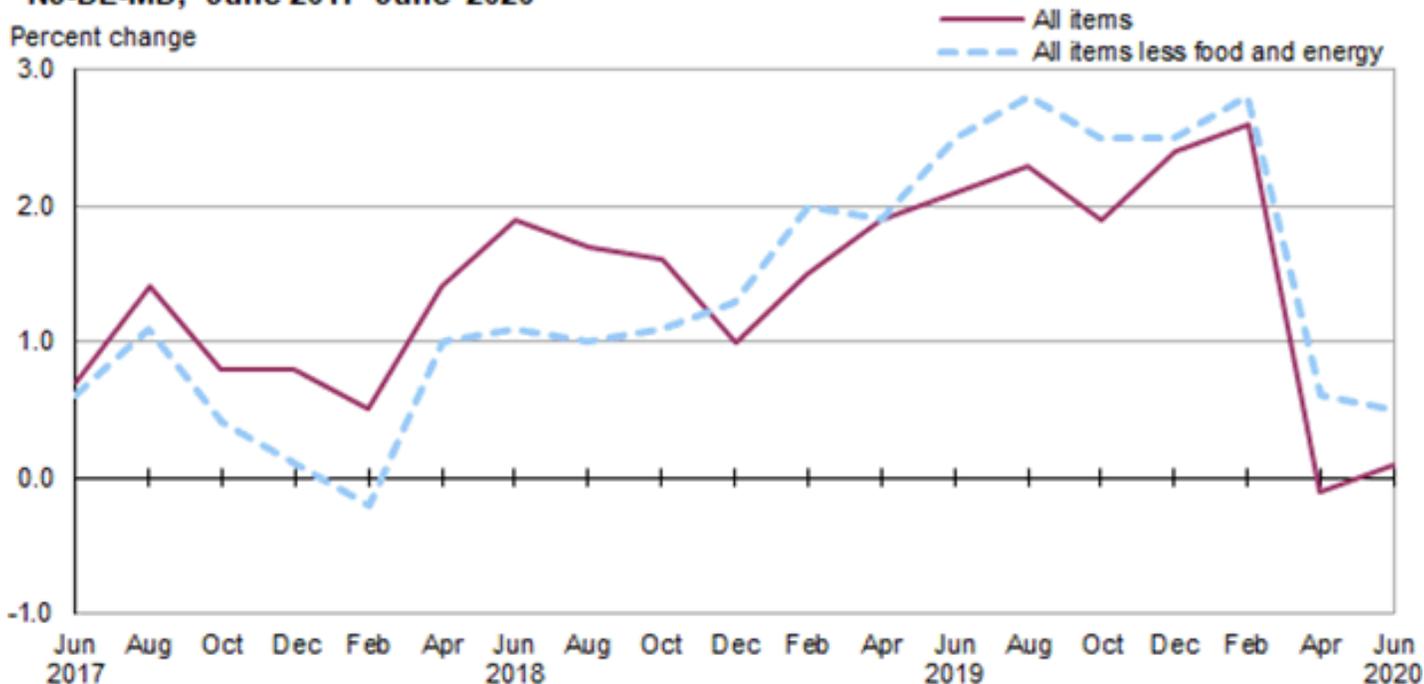
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Consumer Price Index, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – June 2020 **Area prices up 0.6 percent since April; up 0.1 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington increased 0.6 percent from April to June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the recent two-month increase reflected a 0.6-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index. The food index and energy index also increased since April, up 0.7 and 1.5 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 inched up 0.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The over-the-year rise was led by an increase in the food index (5.2 percent). The all items less food and energy index also advanced since June 2019, up 0.5 percent, while the energy index declined 13.7 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, June 2017–June 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index increased 0.7 percent over the last two months. Prices for food at home increased since April, up 0.7 percent, and those for food away from home rose 0.6 percent. Within the food at home component, prices were higher for items such as spices, seasonings, condiments, sauces, and bread, while prices were lower for cheese and related products and rice, pasta, cornmeal.

Over the year, the food index increased 5.2 percent. Prices for food at home rose 5.9 percent, and those for food away from home were up 4.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, rose 1.5 percent since April. The two-month rise was led by a 4.5-percent increase in gasoline prices. Prices were also higher for electricity, up 1.8 percent, while those for utility (piped) gas service decreased, down 2.2 percent.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 13.7 percent, due to a drop in gasoline prices, down 20.6 percent. Prices were also lower for utility (piped) gas service and electricity, down 9.2 and 1.3 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent from April to June. Higher prices were led by shelter (0.6 percent) and medical care (0.9 percent), while lower prices were led by apparel (-2.2 percent) and education and communication (-0.4 percent).

Since June 2019, the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent. Prices were higher for a number of items including shelter (2.1 percent) and medical care (3.2 percent), among others.

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

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month								
February	0.3	0.3	0.7	2.1	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.0	2.6
April	0.9	0.6	0.0	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.9	-1.3	-0.1
June	0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.7	0.2	1.9	0.5	2.1	0.6	0.1
August	-0.2	0.4	0.5	1.4	0.3	1.7	0.5	2.3		
October	0.6	1.3	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.9		
December	-0.1	1.7	-0.1	0.8	-0.7	1.0	-0.3	2.4		

The Consumer Price Index for August 2020 is scheduled to be released Friday, September 11, 2020 at 8:30 am (ET).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on June 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in June was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington 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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, 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-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Apr. 2020	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jun. 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2020
All items.....		256.353		257.983	0.1	0.6	
All items (1967 = 100).....		740.588		745.298			
Food and beverages		247.073		249.143	5.0	0.8	
Food		248.266		249.912	5.2	0.7	
Food at home		252.920	253.526	254.671	5.9	0.7	0.5
Cereals and bakery products		327.034		333.041	8.9	1.8	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		284.276		297.807	12.6	4.8	
Dairy and related products		217.414		210.964	4.9	-3.0	
Fruits and vegetables		280.538		277.844	0.0	-1.0	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)		162.962		167.259	6.8	2.6	
Other food at home		229.341		225.407	2.4	-1.7	
Food away from home.....		236.638		238.118	4.5	0.6	
Alcoholic beverages		226.835		235.409	1.7	3.8	
Housing		269.467		270.497	0.6	0.4	
Shelter		338.542	338.812	340.467	2.1	0.6	0.5
Rent of primary residence		317.499	315.729	316.667	2.6	-0.3	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....		348.840	349.086	351.601	3.3	0.8	0.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)		348.840	349.086	351.601	3.3	0.8	0.7
Fuels and utilities.....		203.716		202.892	-6.6	-0.4	
Household energy		163.492	161.058	162.727	-7.9	-0.5	1.0
Energy services.....		179.011	178.470	180.030	-4.1	0.6	0.9
Electricity		177.855	176.849	181.037	-1.3	1.8	2.4
Utility (piped) gas service		169.586	170.080	165.909	-9.2	-2.2	-2.5
Household furnishings and operations.....		115.743		115.511	-3.2	-0.2	
Apparel.....		103.217		100.976	-4.6	-2.2	
Transportation		195.070		200.284	-7.0	2.7	
Private transportation		196.799		201.663	-6.2	2.5	
New and used motor vehicles(3).....		97.640		97.625	-2.0	0.0	
New vehicles(1).....		174.320		174.854	-2.8	0.3	
Used cars and trucks(1).....		257.994		253.189	-2.4	-1.9	
Motor fuel		195.937	190.171	204.322	-20.6	4.3	7.4
Gasoline (all types).....		192.992	187.332	201.645	-20.6	4.5	7.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		189.323	183.919	197.968	-21.0	4.6	7.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		207.208	198.147	212.952	-18.4	2.8	7.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		202.850	196.208	211.291	-17.3	4.2	7.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....		617.242		692.479	-4.4	12.2	
Medical care		552.219		556.977	3.2	0.9	
Recreation(3).....		125.139		125.300	0.8	0.1	
Education and communication(3).....		132.942		132.397	0.5	-0.4	
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....		1,055.951		1,055.577	1.2	0.0	
Other goods and services		553.826		552.226	0.3	-0.3	
Commodity and service group							

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-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Apr. 2020	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jun. 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2020
Commodities		178.932		179.290	-1.6	0.2	
Commodities less food and beverages		142.877		142.508	-5.7	-0.3	
Nondurables less food and beverages...		180.323		178.514	-7.9	-1.0	
Durables		100.943		101.604	-2.8	0.7	
Services.....		334.435		337.363	1.0	0.9	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		229.187		230.722	-0.9	0.7	
All items less medical care		243.844		245.342	-0.2	0.6	
Commodities less food		145.882		145.734	-5.4	-0.1	
Nondurables		214.557		214.641	-1.2	0.0	
Nondurables less food.....		183.075		181.836	-7.3	-0.7	
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		337.546		341.586	-0.2	1.2	
Services less medical care services.....		318.142		320.882	0.6	0.9	
Energy		175.098	171.458	177.655	-13.7	1.5	3.6
All items less energy		266.930		268.496	1.2	0.6	
All items less food and energy		272.608		274.171	0.5	0.6	

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base
- (2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.