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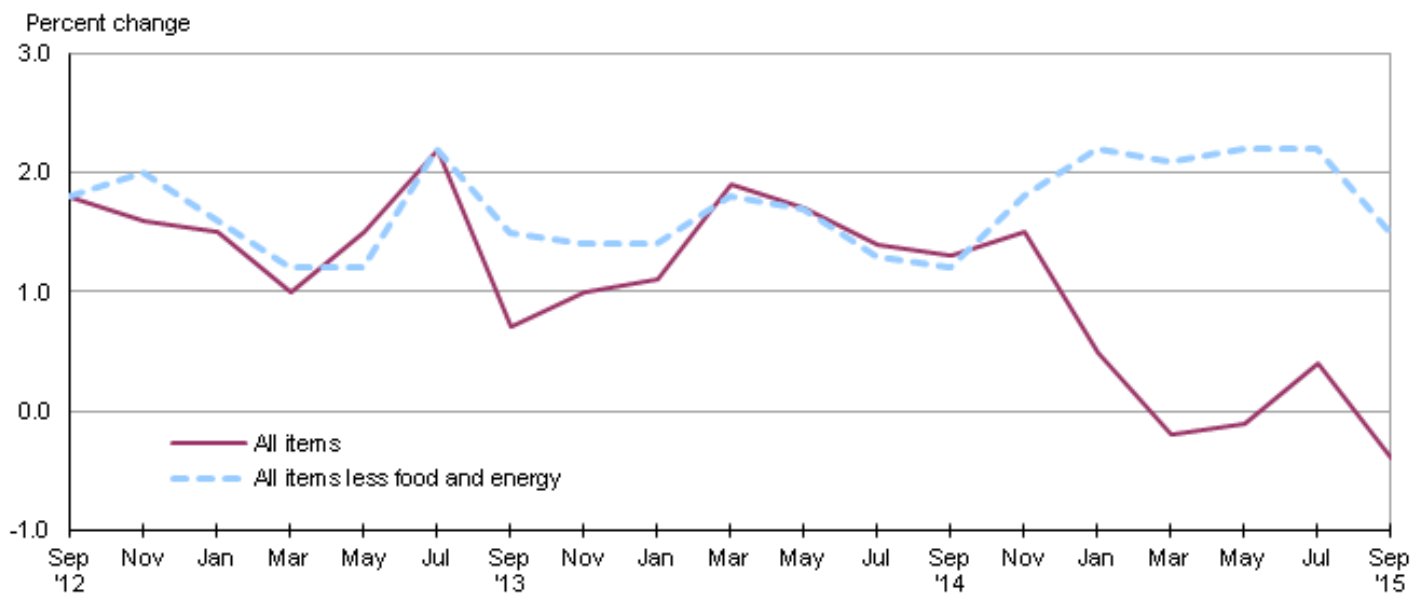
Consumer Price Index, Cleveland-Akron-Lorain — September 2015

Local prices down 0.4 percent over the year

The Cleveland-Akron, Ohio, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) decreased 1.4 percent from July to September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that food prices rose 0.1 percent and energy costs declined 10.9 percent over the bi-monthly period. The index for all items less food and energy fell 0.7 percent. Within this last category, costs were lower for lodging away from home and prices were higher for apparel over the two-month period. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the past 12 months the Cleveland area all items CPI-U declined 0.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index declined 20.0 percent from its September 2014 level due to decreases in gasoline prices and utility (piped) gas service costs over the year. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.5 percent over the past 12 months. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Cleveland, September 2012–September 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.1 percent from July to September following a similar 0.1-percent increase over the previous bi-monthly period. Between the food index's two components, prices for both food at home (groceries) and food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) rose 0.1 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively, over the recent two-month period.

Over the year, food at home prices were up 0.9 percent while prices for food away from home rose 2.7 percent. Overall food costs rose 1.7 percent from a year ago.

Energy

The energy index decreased 10.9 percent from July to September following a 5.9-percent increase over the previous bi-monthly period. In the recent period, declining costs for gasoline (-13.2 percent), electricity (-10.6 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (-5.3 percent) all contributed to the fall in the energy index.

Over the year, the energy index fell 20.0 percent. An annual increase in the cost of electricity (3.1 percent) was more than offset by a drop in gasoline prices (-31.1 percent) and a decline in utility (piped) gas service costs (-21.7 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy fell 0.7 percent from July to September. Among the index's components, lodging away from home prices declined, while increases were recorded in costs for apparel at 8.5 percent.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.5 percent mostly due to a 2.2-percent annual increase in the cost of shelter and a 4.3-percent rise in medical care costs.

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.7	2.2	0.4	2.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	1.1	-0.7	0.5
March	0.9	2.8	1.3	2.6	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.9	0.9	-0.2
May	1.3	4.0	-0.1	1.1	0.4	1.5	0.2	1.7	0.4	-0.1
July	-0.2	3.8	0.0	1.4	0.7	2.2	0.5	1.4	0.9	0.4
September.....	0.6	3.7	1.0	1.8	-0.4	0.7	-0.5	1.3	-1.4	-0.4
November.....	-0.8	2.5	-1.0	1.6	-0.7	1.0	-0.6	1.5		

The November 2015 Consumer Price Index for Cleveland is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

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 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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 **Cleveland-Akron, Ohio** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties in Ohio.

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	223.368	-	220.304	-0.4	-1.4	-
All items (1967=100)	715.778	-	705.958	-	-	-
Food and beverages	250.988	-	251.224	1.6	0.1	-
Food	256.230	-	256.584	1.7	0.1	-
Food at home	249.020	249.722	249.284	0.9	0.1	-0.2
Food away from home	270.389	-	270.886	2.7	0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages	192.321	-	191.165	1.3	-0.6	-
Housing	208.166	-	202.895	0.9	-2.5	-
Shelter	240.584	238.488	235.414	2.2	-2.1	-1.3
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	233.816	233.830	234.291	2.1	0.2	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	228.073	228.556	229.224	2.0	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	228.073	228.556	229.224	2.0	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	201.660	-	187.969	-4.0	-6.8	-
Household energy	168.347	166.641	153.503	-7.0	-8.8	-7.9
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	167.070	165.391	152.233	-6.8	-8.9	-8.0
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	190.363	190.363	170.195	3.1	-10.6	-10.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	118.853	115.172	112.540	-21.7	-5.3	-2.3
Household furnishings and operations	117.785	-	118.137	-1.6	0.3	-
Apparel	127.772	-	138.643	-2.5	8.5	-
Transportation	203.081	-	195.978	-8.0	-3.5	-
Private transportation	204.626	-	197.238	-8.3	-3.6	-
Motor fuel	270.587	256.860	234.863	-31.1	-13.2	-8.6
Gasoline (all types)	267.605	254.032	232.268	-31.1	-13.2	-8.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	256.968	244.182	220.825	-32.4	-14.1	-9.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	279.186	262.919	246.191	-28.7	-11.8	-6.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	271.198	258.828	246.172	-25.0	-9.2	-4.9
Medical care	414.823	-	408.099	4.3	-1.6	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	117.438	-	117.788	1.1	0.3	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	125.566	-	126.044	-0.1	0.4	-
Other goods and services	412.017	-	411.980	2.8	0.0	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	223.368	-	220.304	-0.4	-1.4	-
Commodities	191.955	-	189.836	-3.5	-1.1	-
Commodities less food & beverages	161.620	-	158.617	-6.5	-1.9	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	208.429	-	203.048	-10.4	-2.6	-
Durables	111.288	-	110.309	-0.8	-0.9	-
Services	255.456	-	251.492	1.7	-1.6	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	214.581	-	211.682	-0.8	-1.4	-
All items less shelter	218.468	-	216.242	-1.5	-1.0	-
Commodities less food	162.915	-	159.962	-6.2	-1.8	-
Nondurables	230.447	-	227.721	-4.4	-1.2	-
Nondurables less food	207.087	-	201.993	-9.7	-2.5	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	276.660	-	274.204	1.3	-0.9	-
Services less medical care services	243.581	-	239.391	1.4	-1.7	-
Energy	207.651	201.544	185.018	-20.0	-10.9	-8.2
All items less energy	226.946	-	225.753	1.5	-0.5	-

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 Cleveland-Akron, OH (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
All items less food and energy	221.936	-	220.492	1.5	-0.7	-

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) Index is 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.

- Data not available.

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