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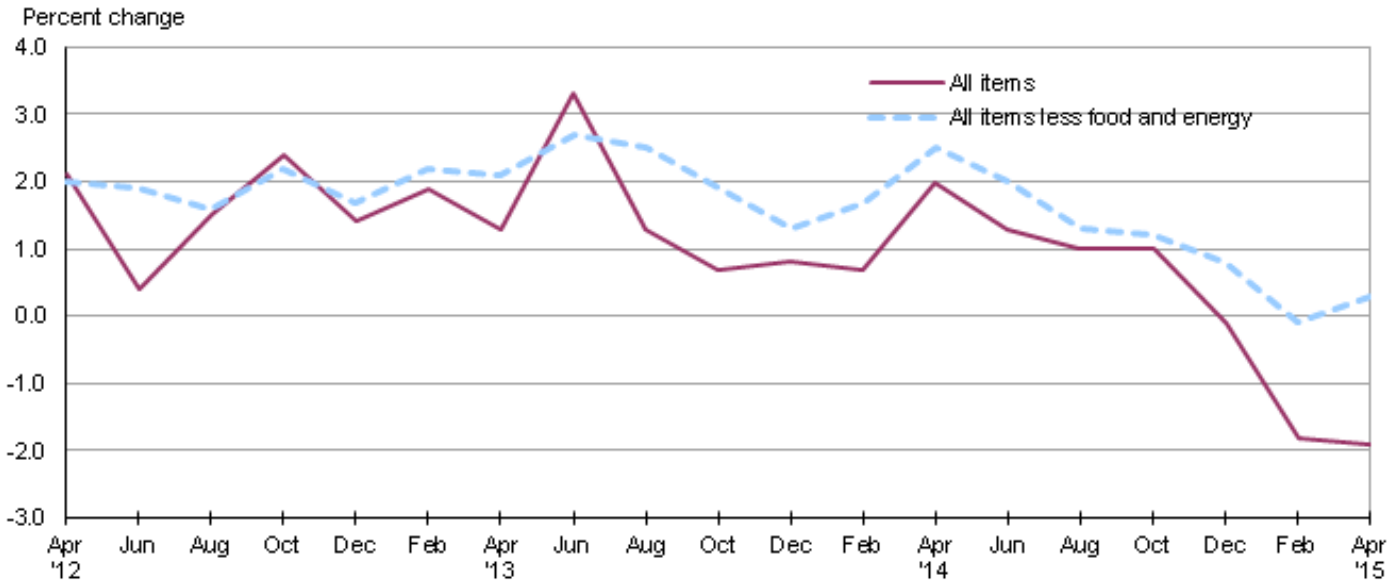
Consumer Price Index, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint — April 2015

Local prices declined 1.9 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint area rose 1.2 percent from February to April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the energy index increased 2.7 percent while the food index edged down 0.1 percent over the bi-monthly period. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent from February to April. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for medical care and shelter. (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 Detroit all items CPI-U fell 1.9 percent. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index fell 21.7 percent over the year due to annual declines in gasoline prices. The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food
Food prices edged down 0.1 percent from February to April following a 0.2 percent decrease over the previous bi-monthly period. Between the two components of the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) decreased 1.2 percent while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 1.6 percent.

Grocery prices were down 0.5 percent from April a year ago, while prices for food away from home were 3.8 percent higher. From April 2014 to April 2015, overall food prices rose 1.2 percent in the Detroit area.

Energy
The energy index for Detroit rose 2.7 percent from February to April. Gasoline prices increased by 11.8 percent, while utility (piped) gas costs fell 10.0 percent and the electricity index was unchanged from February to April.

From April 2014 to April 2015, overall energy prices decreased 21.7 percent. Prices for gasoline fell 34.2 percent over the year. The utility (piped) gas service index and the electricity index also fell by 6.4 and 3.8 percent respectively, but contributed little to the energy index's movement.

All items less food and energy
The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent from February to April. Among the index's components, prices were higher for medical care (7.6 percent) and shelter (0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent. An annual increase in the cost of shelter (1.0 percent) was the major contributing factor. In contrast, prices for apparel fell 10.6 percent over the year.

Table A. Detroit 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
February	0.2	1.7	0.6	3.9	1.1	1.9	1.1	0.7	-0.7	-1.8
April	2.3	3.1	0.6	2.1	0.0	1.3	1.3	2.0	1.2	-1.9
June	0.9	4.2	-0.8	0.4	1.2	3.3	0.5	1.3		
August	0.2	4.1	1.2	1.5	-0.7	1.3	-1.0	1.0		
October	-0.5	3.5	0.5	2.4	-0.1	0.7	-0.1	1.0		
December	0.3	3.5	-0.7	1.4	-0.7	0.8	-1.8	-0.1		

The June 2015 Consumer Price Index for Detroit is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 17, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

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 **Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, Mich.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties in Michigan.

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 periodsDetroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	216.488	-	219.005	-1.9	1.2	-
All items (1967=100)	643.491	-	650.973	-	-	-
Food and beverages	221.417	-	221.467	1.6	0.0	-
Food	221.539	-	221.297	1.2	-0.1	-
Food at home	214.656	211.268	212.003	-0.5	-1.2	0.3
Food away from home	232.147	-	235.887	3.8	1.6	-
Alcoholic beverages	213.729	-	217.600	7.2	1.8	-
Housing	199.847	-	200.008	0.4	0.1	-
Shelter	224.681	224.029	225.751	1.0	0.5	0.8
Rent of primary residence [1]	228.893	228.266	229.013	1.8	0.1	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	221.991	221.310	220.988	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	221.991	221.310	220.988	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1
Fuels and utilities	238.104	-	228.978	-3.4	-3.8	-
Household energy	187.254	184.879	179.027	-5.3	-4.4	-3.2
Energy services [1]	189.277	186.940	180.972	-4.9	-4.4	-3.2
Electricity [1]	199.794	199.754	199.769	-3.8	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	166.315	161.672	149.691	-6.4	-10.0	-7.4
Household furnishings and operations	119.002	-	122.180	1.0	2.7	-
Apparel	112.523	-	116.476	-10.6	3.5	-
Transportation	222.313	-	230.064	-9.7	3.5	-
Private transportation	221.731	-	229.188	-9.7	3.4	-
Motor fuel	190.895	209.045	213.275	-34.2	11.7	2.0
Gasoline (all types)	189.461	207.545	211.827	-34.2	11.8	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	191.769	211.048	215.017	-35.0	12.1	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	220.689	239.160	245.384	-31.8	11.2	2.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	192.870	205.401	211.570	-29.9	9.7	3.0
Medical care	379.401	-	408.376	1.5	7.6	-
Recreation [5]	113.674	-	112.387	-2.9	-1.1	-
Education and communication [5]	145.344	-	144.552	0.0	-0.5	-
Other goods and services	393.600	-	389.000	-4.3	-1.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	216.488	-	219.005	-1.9	1.2	-
Commodities	171.772	-	174.540	-5.8	1.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages	146.345	-	150.376	-10.4	2.8	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	169.828	-	176.133	-16.4	3.7	-
Durables	116.938	-	118.589	-0.1	1.4	-
Services	262.627	-	264.937	0.7	0.9	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	210.080	-	211.397	-2.2	0.6	-
All items less shelter	216.240	-	219.412	-3.2	1.5	-
Commodities less food	148.807	-	152.840	-9.7	2.7	-
Nondurables	195.242	-	198.513	-7.5	1.7	-
Nondurables less food	172.564	-	178.715	-15.0	3.6	-
Services less rent of shelter [2]	316.353	-	320.450	0.4	1.3	-
Services less medical care services	255.083	-	254.960	0.6	0.0	-
Energy	193.080	199.787	198.291	-21.7	2.7	-0.7

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periodsDetroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
All items less energy	221.476	-	223.735	0.5	1.0	-
All items less food and energy	221.964	-	224.723	0.3	1.2	-

(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.