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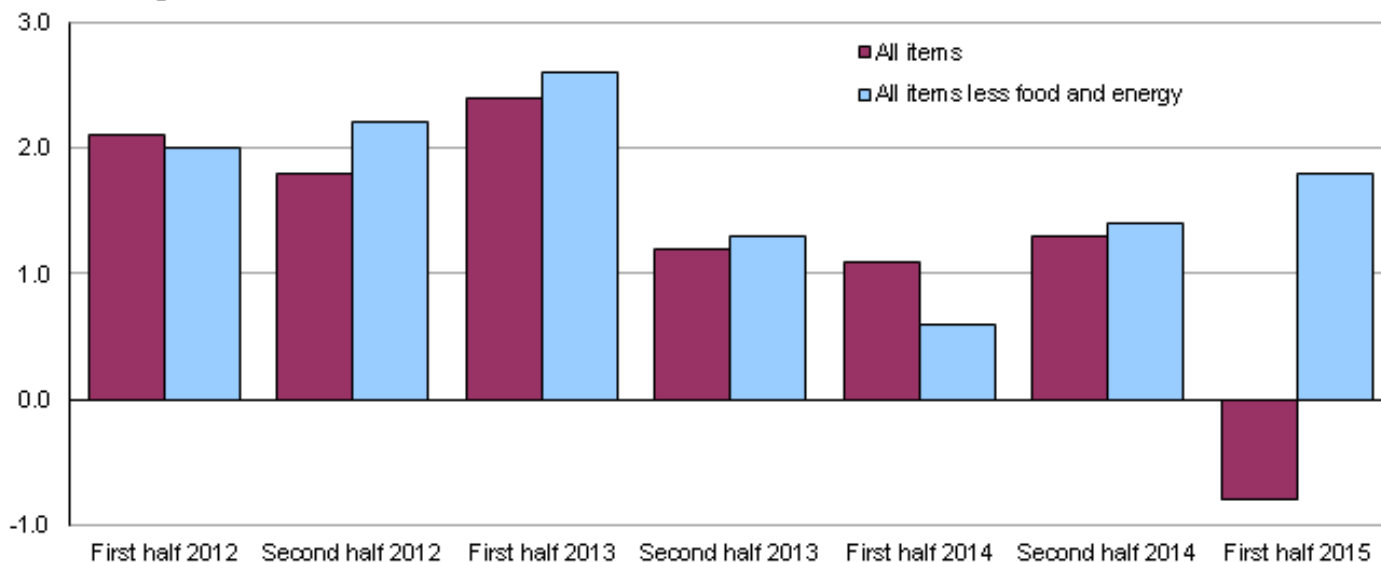
Consumer Price Index, Milwaukee-Racine – First Half 2015

Local prices down 0.8 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Milwaukee-Racine area declined 0.8 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the all items less food and energy index was 1.8 percent higher compared to its first half 2014 level as price increases were noted for several categories, most notably shelter. Food prices rose 1.3 percent over the year while the index for energy fell 22.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Milwaukee, first half 2012–first half 2015

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 1.3 percent from their first half 2014 levels. Within the food category, the index for food at home (groceries) was 1.5 percent higher while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 1.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index was 22.0 percent lower from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015. Within the energy category, the indexes for gasoline and utility (piped) gas service declined 30.8 percent and 29.3 percent, respectively, over the year. The index for electricity rose 0.5 percent compared to its first half 2014 level.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index increased 1.8 percent over the year. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for shelter (2.1 percent), medical care (2.2 percent), and education and communication (2.1 percent). Prices for household furnishings and operations declined 4.1 percent over the year.

The second half 2015 Consumer Price Index for Milwaukee-Racine is scheduled to be released in January 2016.

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 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 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 **Milwaukee-Racine, Wis.**, consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items.....	228.005	227.634	226.220	-0.8	-0.6
All items (1967=100)	704.218	703.074	698.704	-	-
Food and beverages	243.557	246.447	246.551	1.2	0.0
Food	247.781	250.933	251.090	1.3	0.1
Food at home	242.601	247.484	246.293	1.5	-0.5
Food away from home.....	256.070	257.135	259.030	1.2	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	203.568	203.922	203.507	0.0	-0.2
Housing	212.466	210.342	211.854	-0.3	0.7
Shelter	252.134	254.004	257.408	2.1	1.3
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	235.507	237.544	239.683	1.8	0.9
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	268.077	270.185	273.591	2.1	1.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	268.077	270.185	273.591	2.1	1.3
Fuels and utilities.....	236.477	215.975	212.012	-10.3	-1.8
Household energy	195.061	180.209	173.468	-11.1	-3.7
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	200.253	184.790	178.310	-11.0	-3.5
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	211.408	215.093	212.489	0.5	-1.2
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	167.068	128.822	118.049	-29.3	-8.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	100.983	97.674	96.797	-4.1	-0.9
Apparel.....	139.733	148.222	143.504	2.7	-3.2
Transportation	207.165	200.973	188.043	-9.2	-6.4
Private transportation	200.282	194.467	179.949	-10.2	-7.5
Motor fuel	317.331	286.926	219.746	-30.8	-23.4
Gasoline (all types).....	312.626	282.549	216.463	-30.8	-23.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	315.723	284.403	216.045	-31.6	-24.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾	331.910	301.664	234.862	-29.2	-22.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	279.858	256.634	203.418	-27.3	-20.7
Medical care	476.116	483.239	486.551	2.2	0.7
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	115.546	115.694	116.796	1.1	1.0
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	151.100	152.817	154.216	2.1	0.9
Other goods and services	379.767	384.786	388.370	2.3	0.9
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	228.005	227.634	226.220	-0.8	-0.6
Commodities	184.846	184.130	178.022	-3.7	-3.3
Commodities less food & beverages.....	157.340	155.273	146.998	-6.6	-5.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	219.409	216.428	199.014	-9.3	-8.0
Durables	101.878	100.599	99.847	-2.0	-0.7
Services.....	269.102	269.075	272.379	1.2	1.2
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	217.111	216.403	214.774	-1.1	-0.8
All items less shelter.....	221.223	220.025	216.829	-2.0	-1.5
Commodities less food	159.199	157.211	149.188	-6.3	-5.1
Nondurables	233.603	233.318	223.761	-4.2	-4.1
Nondurables less food.....	218.022	215.291	199.124	-8.7	-7.5
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	300.740	298.545	301.813	0.4	1.1
Services less medical care services.....	252.675	252.194	255.314	1.0	1.2
Energy	250.869	229.022	195.626	-22.0	-14.6
All items less energy	227.687	229.855	231.527	1.7	0.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
All items less food and energy	225.214	227.228	229.157	1.8	0.8

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 November 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.