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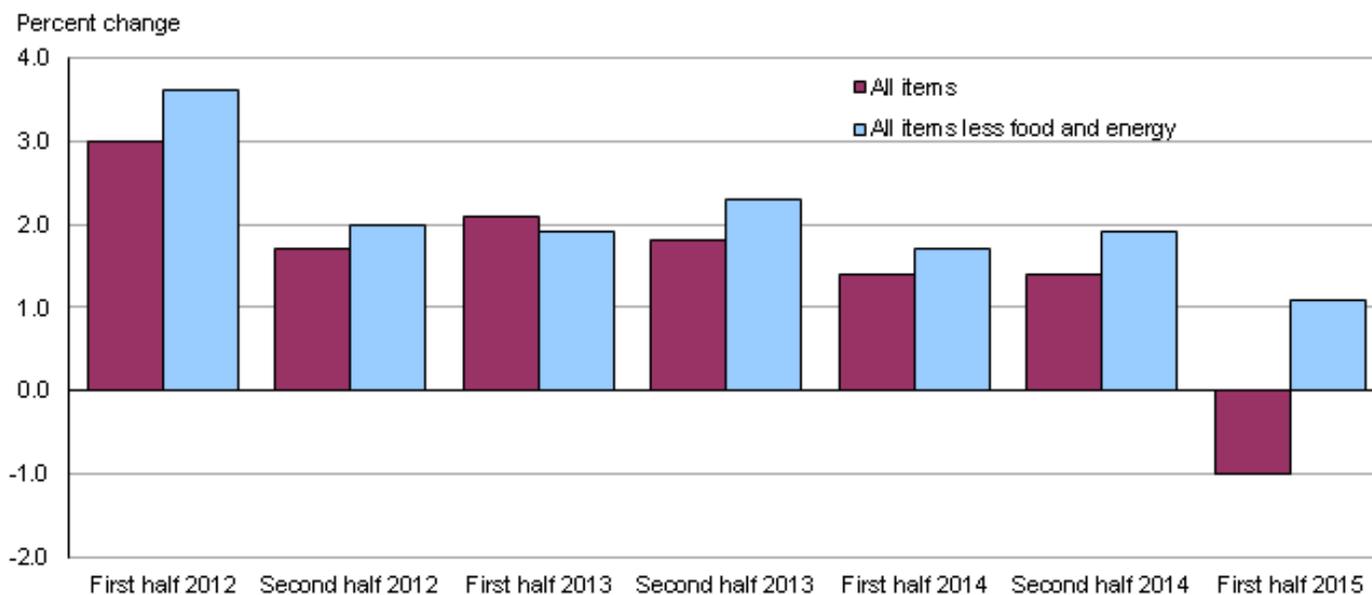
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## **Consumer Price Index, Minneapolis-St. Paul – First Half 2015**

### **Local prices down 1.0 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area was 1.0 percent lower 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 1.1 percent higher compared to its first half 2014 level as price increases were noted for several categories, most notably shelter. Food prices rose 0.8 percent over the year while the index for energy decreased 21.6 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

Food prices rose 0.8 percent from their first half 2014 levels. Within the food category, the index for food at home (groceries) edged up 0.1 percent higher while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 1.4 percent over the year.

## Energy

The energy index decreased 21.6 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015. Within the energy category, the index for gasoline fell 31.0 percent over the year. The indexes for utility (piped) gas service and electricity were down 13.7 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively, compared to their first half 2014 levels.

## All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index increased 1.1 percent over the year. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for shelter (2.7 percent) and medical care (2.9 percent). Apparel recorded an 8.6 percent decline over the year.

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**The second half 2015 Consumer Price Index for Minneapolis-St. Paul 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](http://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](http://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 **Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.-Wis.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright Counties and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin.

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 for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-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
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	231.764	232.261	229.374	-1.0	-1.2
All items (1967=100) .....	728.325	729.887	720.816	-	-
Food and beverages .....	267.651	269.087	269.800	0.8	0.3
Food .....	256.537	257.699	258.628	0.8	0.4
Food at home .....	249.914	249.897	250.130	0.1	0.1
Food away from home .....	267.848	270.405	271.699	1.4	0.5
Alcoholic beverages .....	369.031	374.102	371.538	0.7	-0.7
Housing .....	204.528	206.512	207.453	1.4	0.5
Shelter .....	232.257	235.834	238.532	2.7	1.1
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	234.087	239.272	241.790	3.3	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	242.355	245.178	248.032	2.3	1.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	242.355	245.178	248.032	2.3	1.2
Fuels and utilities .....	210.940	205.736	199.068	-5.6	-3.2
Household energy .....	196.955	190.855	181.137	-8.0	-5.1
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	198.191	193.827	184.380	-7.0	-4.9
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	243.545	244.957	237.679	-2.4	-3.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	161.639	151.414	139.447	-13.7	-7.9
Household furnishings and operations .....	122.610	122.776	122.957	0.3	0.1
Apparel .....	145.813	151.638	133.291	-8.6	-12.1
Transportation .....	216.286	211.727	196.981	-8.9	-7.0
Private transportation .....	197.495	193.433	179.202	-9.3	-7.4
Motor fuel .....	279.861	253.345	193.152	-31.0	-23.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	280.630	253.723	193.562	-31.0	-23.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	285.040	256.809	194.863	-31.6	-24.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	282.313	255.731	197.470	-30.1	-22.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	324.487	299.341	232.817	-28.3	-22.2
Medical care .....	478.323	481.873	492.003	2.9	2.1
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	123.782	122.120	121.481	-1.9	-0.5
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	138.836	137.984	136.597	-1.6	-1.0
Other goods and services .....	356.452	357.792	359.731	0.9	0.5
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All Items .....	231.764	232.261	229.374	-1.0	-1.2
Commodities .....	194.807	192.611	184.388	-5.3	-4.3
Commodities less food & beverages .....	159.825	156.496	145.657	-8.9	-6.9
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	215.628	209.261	187.283	-13.1	-10.5
Durables .....	110.378	109.561	107.992	-2.2	-1.4
Services .....	264.191	267.083	268.972	1.8	0.7
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	220.712	221.066	217.557	-1.4	-1.6
All items less shelter .....	232.751	231.783	226.501	-2.7	-2.3
Commodities less food .....	167.854	164.643	153.762	-8.4	-6.6
Nondurables .....	241.911	238.872	226.432	-6.4	-5.2
Nondurables less food .....	227.129	221.195	199.726	-12.1	-9.7
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	315.416	317.040	318.114	0.9	0.3
Services less medical care services .....	245.762	248.574	249.919	1.7	0.5
Energy .....	242.290	225.657	189.981	-21.6	-15.8
All items less energy .....	234.305	236.580	236.798	1.1	0.1

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 Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-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 .....	231.116	233.562	233.674	1.1	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) 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.