



For Release: Wednesday, January 20, 2016

16-64-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest

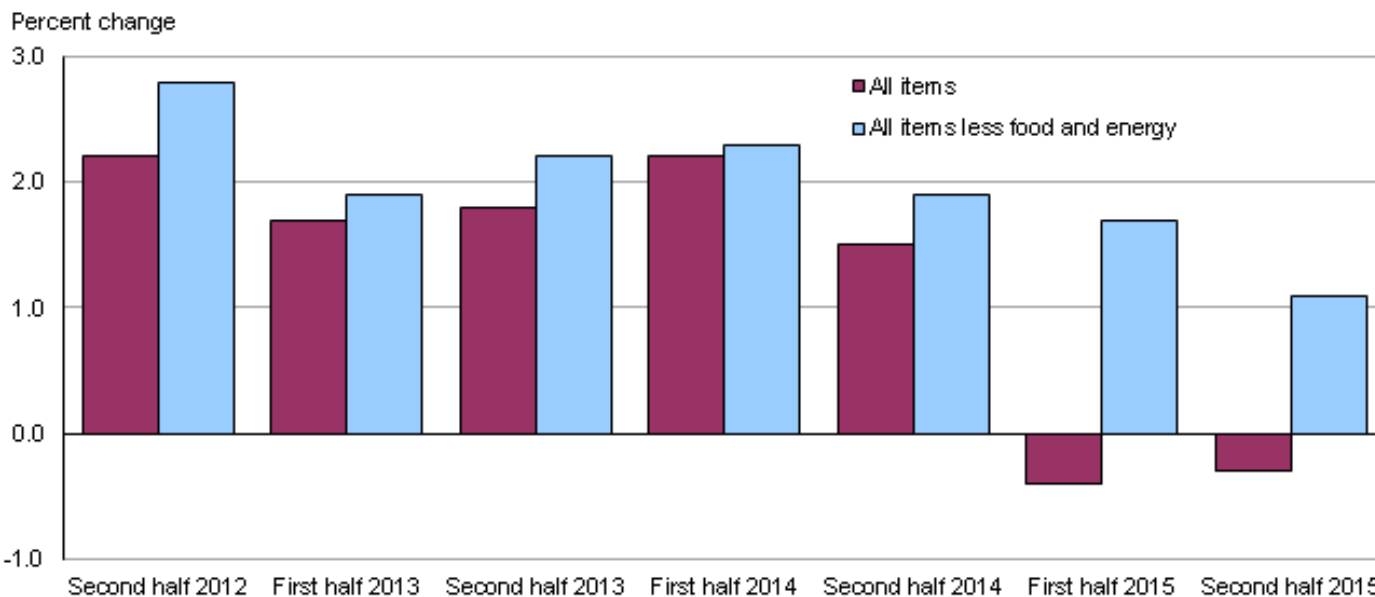
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Consumer Price Index, Cincinnati-Hamilton — Second Half 2015

Local prices down 0.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Cincinnati-Hamilton area declined 0.3 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second 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 second half 2014 level as price increases were noted in the categories for shelter, medical care, and other goods and services. Food prices rose 0.7 percent over the year while the index for energy decreased 12.4 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The 0.7 percent rise in food prices over the year was attributed to a 2.5 percent increase in costs for food eaten away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases). Grocery food prices, on-the-other-hand, were down 0.6 percent compared to their year ago levels. In the previous annual period (second half 2013 to second half 2014), food prices were up 2.4 percent in the Cincinnati area.

Energy

All three major components of the energy index were down compared to their second half 2014 levels and contributed to the 12.4 percent annual decline in energy costs in the Cincinnati area. Gasoline prices experienced the largest decline, down 20.7 percent followed by a 9.0 percent decrease in costs for utility (piped) gas service. Electricity costs were 0.5 percent lower than their second half 2014 levels. Energy costs declined 3.1 percent in the prior annual period.

All items less food and energy

The 1.1 percent over the year increase in the all items less food and energy index was primarily due to a 1.2 percent annual gain in shelter costs. Medical care (2.6 percent) and other goods and services (4.7 percent) also experienced increases and contributed to the rise in the all items less food and energy index.

The first half 2016 Consumer Price Index for Cincinnati-Hamilton is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 15, 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 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/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 **Cincinnati-Hamilton, Ohio-Ky.-Ind.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Dearborn and Ohio Counties in Indiana; Boone, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton Counties in Kentucky; and Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties in Ohio.

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 Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
Expenditure category					
All items	224.519	222.788	223.768	-0.3	0.4
All items (1967=100)	694.713	689.355	692.387	-	-
Food and beverages	219.340	220.267	220.788	0.7	0.2
Food	215.995	217.052	217.530	0.7	0.2
Food at home	213.434	214.125	212.216	-0.6	-0.9
Food away from home	223.400	225.292	228.976	2.5	1.6
Alcoholic beverages	246.780	245.699	246.798	0.0	0.4
Housing	206.092	205.651	207.636	0.7	1.0
Shelter	235.310	237.133	238.064	1.2	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	237.857	240.307	242.803	2.1	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	235.837	237.664	238.344	1.1	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	235.837	237.664	238.344	1.1	0.3
Fuels and utilities	228.500	214.231	223.026	-2.4	4.1
Household energy	189.655	175.554	183.822	-3.1	4.7
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	194.709	180.467	189.554	-2.6	5.0
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	194.088	179.360	193.153	-0.5	7.7
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	188.095	175.840	171.219	-9.0	-2.6
Household furnishings and operations	112.019	113.917	114.913	2.6	0.9
Apparel	138.876	144.581	141.160	1.6	-2.4
Transportation	209.692	198.886	199.744	-4.7	0.4
Private transportation	206.193	195.056	196.559	-4.7	0.8
Motor fuel	284.312	227.857	225.326	-20.7	-1.1
Gasoline (all types)	282.826	226.759	224.337	-20.7	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	290.872	232.079	229.042	-21.3	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾	275.255	222.136	222.655	-19.1	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	246.999	202.371	207.829	-15.9	2.7
Medical care	459.784	468.622	471.922	2.6	0.7
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	126.350	126.128	126.369	0.0	0.2
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	135.904	133.292	130.372	-4.1	-2.2
Other goods and services	470.222	477.130	492.263	4.7	3.2
Commodity and service group					
All items	224.519	222.788	223.768	-0.3	0.4
Commodities	179.315	175.929	175.740	-2.0	-0.1
Commodities less food & beverages	157.909	152.862	152.388	-3.5	-0.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	201.480	188.964	187.769	-6.8	-0.6
Durables	117.150	118.224	118.340	1.0	0.1
Services	272.948	272.800	274.938	0.7	0.8
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	213.694	211.473	212.346	-0.6	0.4
All items less shelter	222.389	219.231	220.240	-1.0	0.5
Commodities less food	161.543	156.553	156.115	-3.4	-0.3
Nondurables	211.961	205.758	205.375	-3.1	-0.2
Nondurables less food	205.847	193.841	192.761	-6.4	-0.6
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	324.584	321.958	325.637	0.3	1.1
Services less medical care services	256.580	255.961	257.779	0.5	0.7
Energy	232.658	200.140	203.850	-12.4	1.9
All items less energy	226.194	227.881	228.585	1.1	0.3

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 Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
All items less food and energy	229.455	231.266	232.015	1.1	0.3

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.