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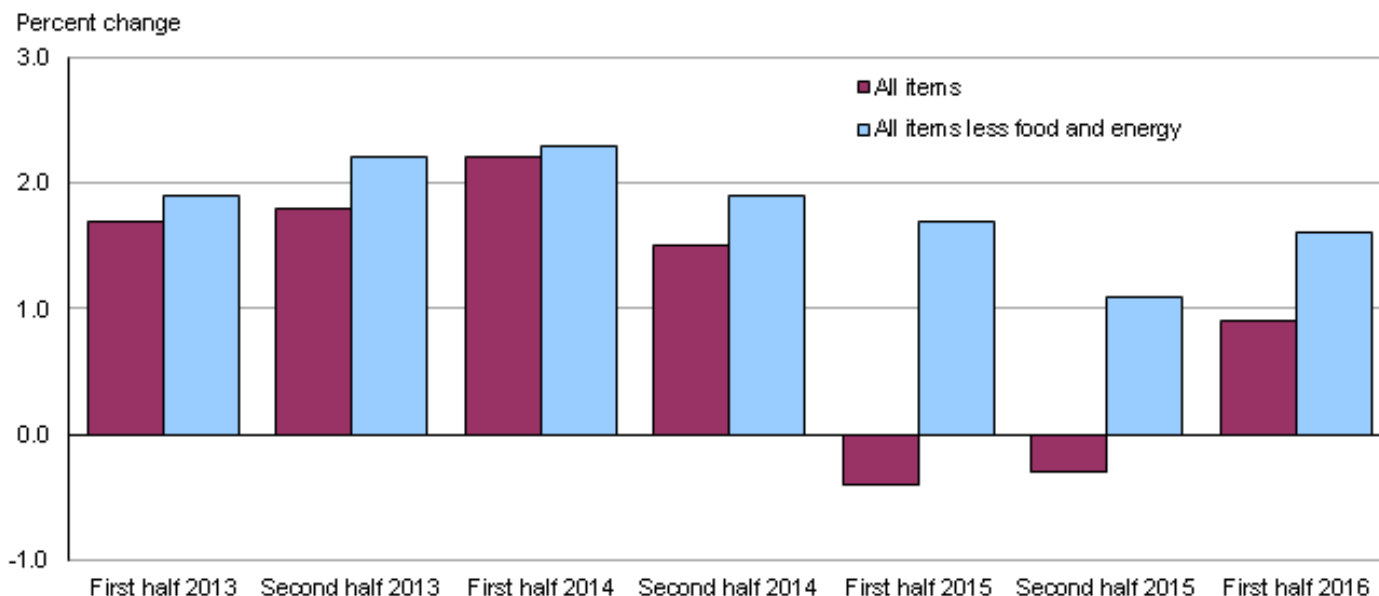
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## **Consumer Price Index, Cincinnati-Hamilton — First Half 2016**

### **Local prices rose 0.9 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Cincinnati-Hamilton area rose 0.9 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the all items less food and energy index was 1.6 percent higher compared to its first half 2015 level as price increases were noted for several categories: medical care, shelter, and household furnishings and operations. Food prices edged down 0.1 percent over the year while the index for energy decreased 2.7 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Cincinnati, first half 2013–first half 2016**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

Food prices edged down 0.1 percent from their first half 2015 levels. Within the food category, the index for food at home (groceries) was 2.3 percent lower while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were up 2.8 percent.

## Energy

The energy index fell 2.7 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016. Within the energy category, the indexes for gasoline and utility (piped) gas service declined 12.3 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively, over the year. The index for electricity rose 11.2 percent compared to its first half 2015 level.

## All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index increased 1.6 percent over the year. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for medical care (5.0 percent), shelter (1.2 percent), and household furnishings and operations (3.0 percent). Prices declined 3.7 percent for education and communication over the year.

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**The second half 2016 Consumer Price Index for Cincinnati-Hamilton is scheduled to be released in January 2017.**

## 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](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/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://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.

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

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	222.788	223.768	224.871	0.9	0.5
All items (1967=100) .....	689.355	692.387	695.799	-	-
Food and beverages .....	220.267	220.788	220.140	-0.1	-0.3
Food .....	217.052	217.530	216.751	-0.1	-0.4
Food at home .....	214.125	212.216	209.126	-2.3	-1.5
Food away from home .....	225.292	228.976	231.605	2.8	1.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	245.699	246.798	247.588	0.8	0.3
Housing .....	205.651	207.636	209.499	1.9	0.9
Shelter .....	237.133	238.064	239.862	1.2	0.8
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	240.307	242.803	244.768	1.9	0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	237.664	238.344	240.588	1.2	0.9
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	237.664	238.344	240.588	1.2	0.9
Fuels and utilities .....	214.231	223.026	225.311	5.2	1.0
Household energy .....	175.554	183.822	186.475	6.2	1.4
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	180.467	189.554	192.795	6.8	1.7
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	179.360	193.153	199.454	11.2	3.3
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	175.840	171.219	164.191	-6.6	-4.1
Household furnishings and operations .....	113.917	114.913	117.333	3.0	2.1
Apparel .....	144.581	141.160	144.038	-0.4	2.0
Transportation .....	198.886	199.744	197.109	-0.9	-1.3
Private transportation .....	195.056	196.559	193.666	-0.7	-1.5
Motor fuel .....	227.857	225.326	199.362	-12.5	-11.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	226.759	224.337	198.855	-12.3	-11.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	232.079	229.042	202.113	-12.9	-11.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	222.136	222.655	201.443	-9.3	-9.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	202.371	207.829	192.189	-5.0	-7.5
Medical care .....	468.622	471.922	491.865	5.0	4.2
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	126.128	126.369	128.820	2.1	1.9
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	133.292	130.372	128.352	-3.7	-1.5
Other goods and services .....	477.130	492.263	492.706	3.3	0.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	222.788	223.768	224.871	0.9	0.5
Commodities .....	175.929	175.740	175.107	-0.5	-0.4
Commodities less food & beverages .....	152.862	152.388	151.830	-0.7	-0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	188.964	187.769	185.716	-1.7	-1.1
Durables .....	118.224	118.340	119.028	0.7	0.6
Services .....	272.800	274.938	277.669	1.8	1.0
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	211.473	212.346	212.581	0.5	0.1
All items less shelter .....	219.231	220.240	221.073	0.8	0.4
Commodities less food .....	156.553	156.115	155.549	-0.6	-0.4
Nondurables .....	205.758	205.375	203.887	-0.9	-0.7
Nondurables less food .....	193.841	192.761	190.707	-1.6	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	321.958	325.637	329.545	2.4	1.2
Services less medical care services .....	255.961	257.779	260.135	1.6	0.9
Energy .....	200.140	203.850	194.644	-2.7	-4.5
All items less energy .....	227.881	228.585	230.987	1.4	1.1

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

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
All items less food and energy .....	231.266	232.015	235.036	1.6	1.3

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.