



**For Release: Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

**16-65-CHI**

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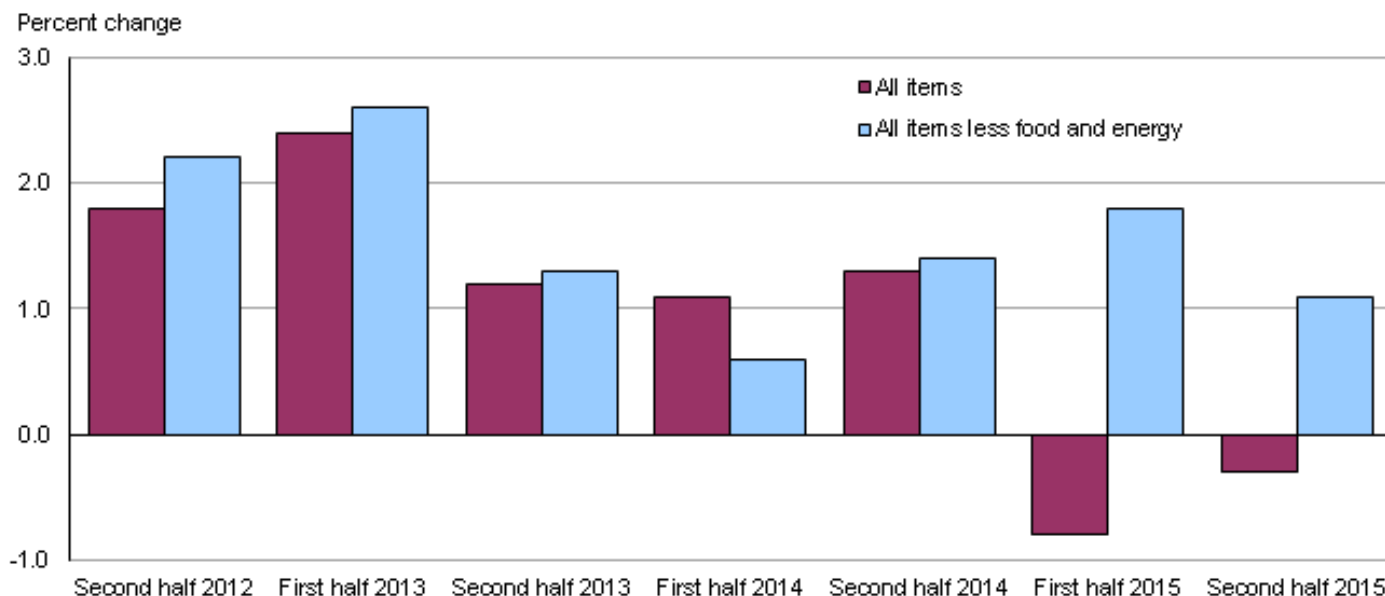
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## Consumer Price Index, Milwaukee-Racine — Second Half 2015

### Local prices down 0.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Milwaukee-Racine 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, recreation, and medical care. Food prices rose 0.8 percent over the year while the index for energy decreased 14.5 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

The 0.8 percent rise in food prices over the year was attributed to both a 0.9 percent increase in costs for food eaten away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) and a 0.6 percent increase in costs for grocery food items. In the previous annual period (second half 2013 to second half 2014), food prices in the Milwaukee area rose 2.0 percent.

## Energy

Gasoline prices were down 21.3 percent from their second half 2014 levels and costs for utility (piped) gas service fell 18.3 percent in the same period, both contributing to the 14.5 percent drop in energy prices over the year. Electricity costs, on-the-other-hand, rose 0.5 percent compared to their second half 2014 levels. In the previous annual period, energy costs were nearly unchanged (-0.1 percent).

## 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 2.6 percent annual gain in shelter costs. Recreation (2.1 percent) and medical care (1.1 percent) also experienced increases and contributed to the rise in the all items less food and energy index.

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**The first half 2016 Consumer Price Index for Milwaukee-Racine 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](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 **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<br>2nd half 2015 from- |                  |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
|   | 2nd half<br>2014           | 1st half<br>2015 | 2nd half<br>2015 | 2nd half<br>2014                         | 1st half<br>2015 |
| <b>Expenditure category</b>   |                            |                  |                  |  |                  |
| All Items.....  | 227.634                    | 226.220          | 226.984          | -0.3                                     | 0.3              |
| All items (1967=100) .....  | 703.074                    | 698.704          | 701.066          | -  | -                |
| Food and beverages .....  | 246.447                    | 246.551          | 248.702          | 0.9                                      | 0.9              |
| Food .....  | 250.933                    | 251.090          | 252.964          | 0.8                                      | 0.7              |
| Food at home .....  | 247.484                    | 246.293          | 248.995          | 0.6                                      | 1.1              |
| Food away from home.....  | 257.135                    | 259.030          | 259.541          | 0.9                                      | 0.2              |
| Alcoholic beverages .....   | 203.922                    | 203.507          | 208.358          | 2.2                                      | 2.4              |
| Housing .....   | 210.342                    | 211.854          | 213.262          | 1.4                                      | 0.7              |
| Shelter .....   | 254.004                    | 257.408          | 260.716          | 2.6                                      | 1.3              |
| Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....                                  | 237.544                    | 239.683          | 241.257          | 1.6                                      | 0.7              |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup> .....           | 270.185                    | 273.591          | 278.025          | 2.9                                      | 1.6              |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup><br><sup>(2)</sup> ..... | 270.185                    | 273.591          | 278.025          | 2.9                                      | 1.6              |
| Fuels and utilities.....  | 215.975                    | 212.012          | 208.419          | -3.5                                     | -1.7             |
| Household energy .....  | 180.209                    | 173.468          | 169.387          | -6.0                                     | -2.4             |
| Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....  | 184.790                    | 178.310          | 174.593          | -5.5                                     | -2.1             |
| Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....  | 215.093                    | 212.489          | 216.195          | 0.5                                      | 1.7              |
| Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....                                | 128.822                    | 118.049          | 105.286          | -18.3                                    | -10.8            |
| Household furnishings and operations.....                                       | 97.674                     | 96.797           | 95.644           | -2.1                                     | -1.2             |
| Apparel.....  | 148.222                    | 143.504          | 139.638          | -5.8                                     | -2.7             |
| Transportation .....  | 200.973                    | 188.043          | 187.955          | -6.5                                     | 0.0              |
| Private transportation .....  | 194.467                    | 179.949          | 180.048          | -7.4                                     | 0.1              |
| Motor fuel .....  | 286.926                    | 219.746          | 225.426          | -21.4                                    | 2.6              |
| Gasoline (all types).....   | 282.549                    | 216.463          | 222.241          | -21.3                                    | 2.7              |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....                                 | 284.403                    | 216.045          | 219.801          | -22.7                                    | 1.7              |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> .....                 | 301.664                    | 234.862          | 244.856          | -18.8                                    | 4.3              |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....                                 | 256.634                    | 203.418          | 217.561          | -15.2                                    | 7.0              |
| Medical care .....  | 483.239                    | 486.551          | 488.733          | 1.1                                      | 0.4              |
| Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....   | 115.694                    | 116.796          | 118.172          | 2.1                                      | 1.2              |
| Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....                                | 152.817                    | 154.216          | 152.723          | -0.1                                     | -1.0             |
| Other goods and services .....  | 384.786                    | 388.370          | 389.660          | 1.3                                      | 0.3              |
| <b>Commodity and service group</b>  |                            |                  |                  |  |                  |
| All Items.....  | 227.634                    | 226.220          | 226.984          | -0.3                                     | 0.3              |
| Commodities .....   | 184.130                    | 178.022          | 177.558          | -3.6                                     | -0.3             |
| Commodities less food & beverages.....  | 155.273                    | 146.998          | 145.558          | -6.3                                     | -1.0             |
| Nondurables less food & beverages .....   | 216.428                    | 199.014          | 198.575          | -8.2                                     | -0.2             |
| Durables .....  | 100.599                    | 99.847           | 97.689           | -2.9                                     | -2.2             |
| Services.....   | 269.075                    | 272.379          | 274.366          | 2.0                                      | 0.7              |
| <b>Special aggregate indexes</b>  |                            |                  |                  |  |                  |
| All items less medical care .....   | 216.403                    | 214.774          | 215.476          | -0.4                                     | 0.3              |
| All items less shelter.....   | 220.025                    | 216.829          | 216.676          | -1.5                                     | -0.1             |
| Commodities less food .....   | 157.211                    | 149.188          | 147.960          | -5.9                                     | -0.8             |
| Nondurables .....   | 233.318                    | 223.761          | 224.515          | -3.8                                     | 0.3              |
| Nondurables less food.....  | 215.291                    | 199.124          | 199.070          | -7.5                                     | 0.0              |
| Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....                              | 298.545                    | 301.813          | 302.343          | 1.3                                      | 0.2              |
| Services less medical care services.....  | 252.194                    | 255.314          | 257.310          | 2.0                                      | 0.8              |
| Energy .....  | 229.022                    | 195.626          | 195.796          | -14.5                                    | 0.1              |
| All items less energy .....   | 229.855                    | 231.527          | 232.358          | 1.1                                      | 0.4              |

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<br>2nd half 2015 from- |                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
|                                      | 2nd half<br>2014           | 1st half<br>2015 | 2nd half<br>2015 | 2nd half<br>2014                         | 1st half<br>2015 |
| All items less food and energy ..... | 227.228                    | 229.157          | 229.819          | 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.