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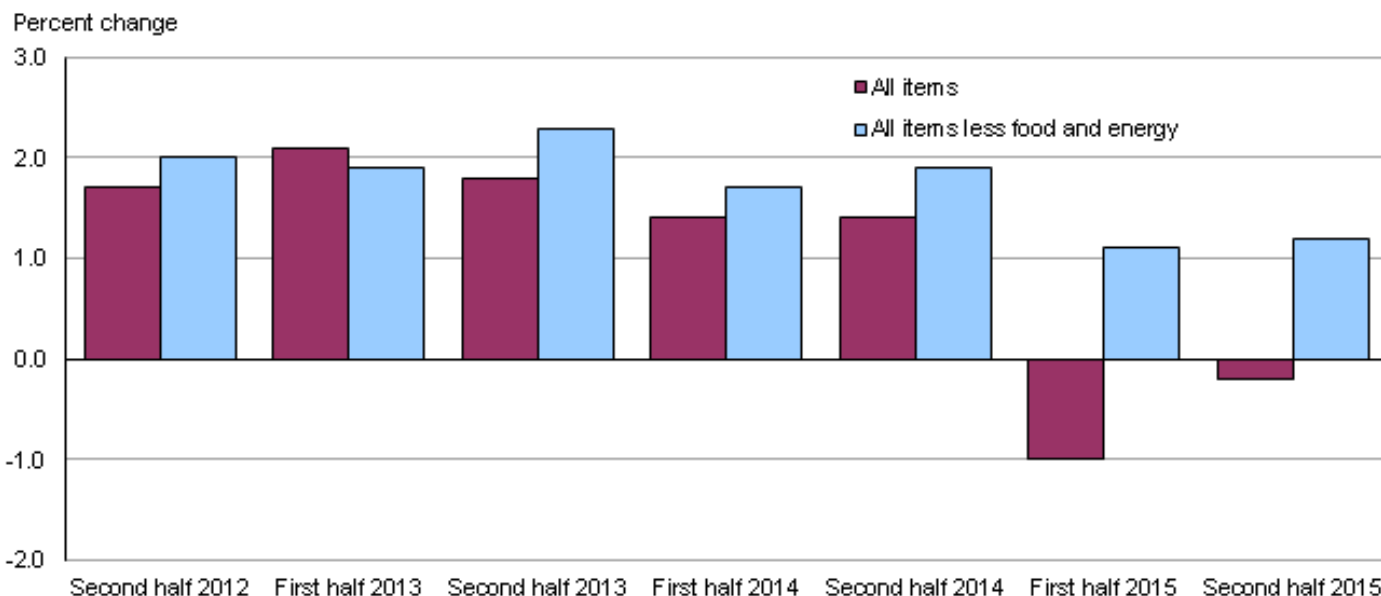
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## Consumer Price Index, Minneapolis-St. Paul — Second Half 2015

### Local prices down 0.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area declined 0.2 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 1.2 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 1.5 percent over the year while the index for energy decreased 16.3 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

The 1.5 percent rise in food prices over the year was attributed to both a 1.9 percent increase in costs for food eaten away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) and a 1.0 percent increase in costs for grocery food items. In the previous annual period (second half 2013 to second half 2014), food prices in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area rose 1.1 percent.

## **Energy**

All three major components of the energy index were down compared to their second half 2014 levels and contributed to the 16.3 percent annual decline in energy costs in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Gasoline prices experienced the largest decline, down 23.2 percent followed by a 15.4 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 2.5 percent in the prior annual period.

## **All items less food and energy**

The 1.2 percent over the year increase in the all items less food and energy index was primarily due to a 2.8 percent annual gain in shelter costs. Medical care (2.8 percent) and other goods and services (1.5 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 Minneapolis-St. Paul 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 **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 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	232.261	229.374	231.760	-0.2	1.0
All items (1967=100) .....	729.887	720.816	728.311	-	-
Food and beverages .....	269.087	269.800	272.282	1.2	0.9
Food .....	257.699	258.628	261.487	1.5	1.1
Food at home .....	249.897	250.130	252.407	1.0	0.9
Food away from home .....	270.405	271.699	275.526	1.9	1.4
Alcoholic beverages .....	374.102	371.538	368.029	-1.6	-0.9
Housing .....	206.512	207.453	209.754	1.6	1.1
Shelter .....	235.834	238.532	242.483	2.8	1.7
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	239.272	241.790	245.933	2.8	1.7
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup> .....	245.178	248.032	252.307	2.9	1.7
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup> .....	245.178	248.032	252.307	2.9	1.7
Fuels and utilities .....	205.736	199.068	198.092	-3.7	-0.5
Household energy .....	190.855	181.137	177.839	-6.8	-1.8
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	193.827	184.380	181.648	-6.3	-1.5
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	244.957	237.679	243.625	-0.5	2.5
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	151.414	139.447	128.061	-15.4	-8.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	122.776	122.957	121.526	-1.0	-1.2
Apparel .....	151.638	133.291	137.800	-9.1	3.4
Transportation .....	211.727	196.981	198.554	-6.2	0.8
Private transportation .....	193.433	179.202	181.630	-6.1	1.4
Motor fuel .....	253.345	193.152	194.019	-23.4	0.4
Gasoline (all types) .....	253.723	193.562	194.835	-23.2	0.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	256.809	194.863	195.629	-23.8	0.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> .....	255.731	197.470	199.182	-22.1	0.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	299.341	232.817	237.912	-20.5	2.2
Medical care .....	481.873	492.003	495.139	2.8	0.6
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	122.120	121.481	122.565	0.4	0.9
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	137.984	136.597	138.004	0.0	1.0
Other goods and services .....	357.792	359.731	363.260	1.5	1.0
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All Items .....	232.261	229.374	231.760	-0.2	1.0
Commodities .....	192.611	184.388	185.166	-3.9	0.4
Commodities less food & beverages .....	156.496	145.657	145.813	-6.8	0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	209.261	187.283	188.881	-9.7	0.9
Durables .....	109.561	107.992	106.987	-2.3	-0.9
Services .....	267.083	268.972	272.786	2.1	1.4
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	221.066	217.557	219.912	-0.5	1.1
All items less shelter .....	231.783	226.501	228.203	-1.5	0.8
Commodities less food .....	164.643	153.762	153.839	-6.6	0.1
Nondurables .....	238.872	226.432	228.443	-4.4	0.9
Nondurables less food .....	221.195	199.726	201.109	-9.1	0.7
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	317.040	318.114	321.785	1.5	1.2
Services less medical care services .....	248.574	249.919	253.713	2.1	1.5
Energy .....	225.657	189.981	188.764	-16.3	-0.6
All items less energy .....	236.580	236.798	239.567	1.3	1.2

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 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 .....	233.562	233.674	236.431	1.2	1.2

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.