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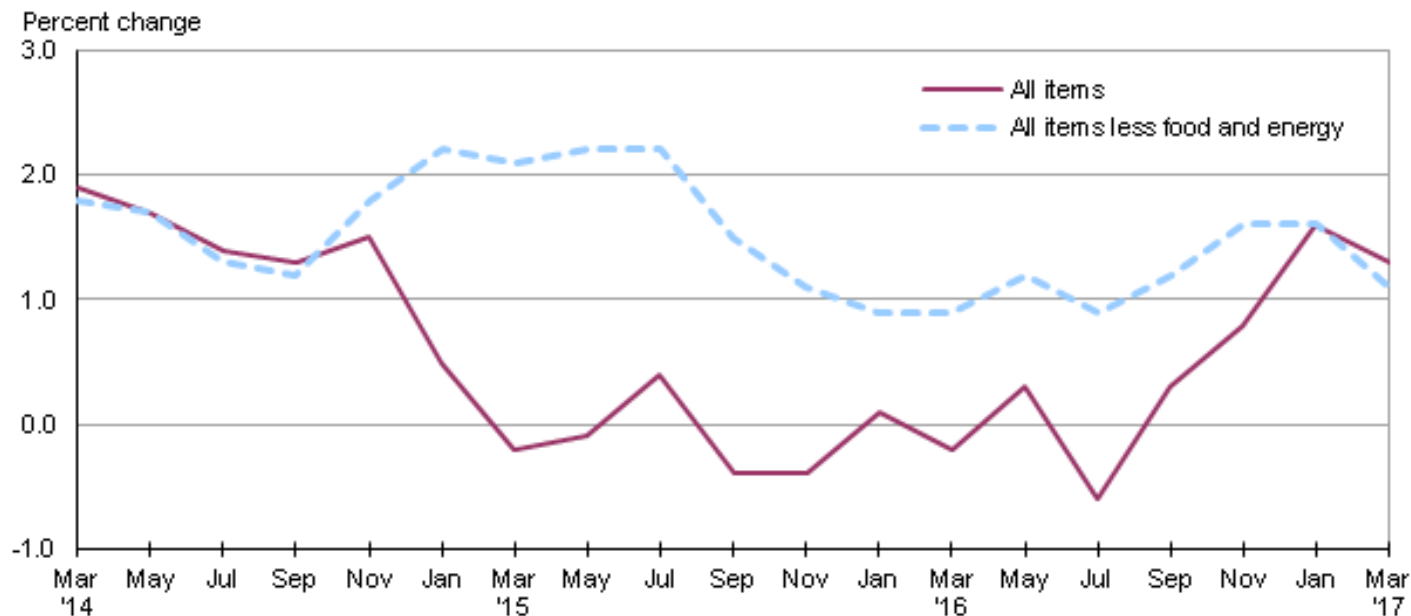
Consumer Price Index, Cleveland-Akron-Lorain — March 2017

Local prices increase 1.3 percent over the year

The Cleveland-Akron, Ohio, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.3 percent from January to March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that food prices increased 0.5 percent while energy costs were up 0.7 percent over the bi-monthly period. The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.2 percent over the past two months. Within this last category, costs were higher for apparel and recreation, but lower for household furnishings and operations. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the past 12 months the Cleveland area all items CPI-U rose 1.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index increased 7.5 percent over the year as prices increased for gasoline and utility (piped) gas service. The all items less food and energy index was 1.1 percent higher over the past 12 months. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Cleveland, March 2014–March 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were up 0.5 percent from January to March following a 0.9-percent increase over the previous bi-monthly period. Between the food index's two components, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 0.3 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were up 0.7 percent over the recent two-month period.

Over the year, overall food prices were 0.4 percent lower. Prices for food at home fell 1.6 percent while food away from home prices rose 1.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 0.7 percent from January to March following a 5.4-percent increase over the previous bi-monthly period. From January to March, the 5.5-percent rise in electricity costs were partially offset by the declines in the indexes for gasoline (-2.3 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the energy index rose 7.5 percent due to increases in the indexes for gasoline (15.2 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (27.6 percent). In contrast, the electricity index fell 9.2 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.2 percent from January to March. Among the index's components, prices were higher for apparel (5.5 percent) and recreation (1.4 percent), but lower for household furnishings and operations (-2.8 percent) and education and communication (-1.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.1 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (2.0 percent), medical care (6.4 percent) and recreation (6.2 percent) were major contributing factors.

Table A. Cleveland CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.2	1.5	0.3	1.1	-0.7	0.5	-0.1	0.1	0.7	1.6
March	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.9	0.9	-0.2	0.5	-0.2	0.3	1.3
May	0.4	1.5	0.2	1.7	0.4	-0.1	0.9	0.3		
July	0.7	2.2	0.5	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.0	-0.6		
September	-0.4	0.7	-0.5	1.3	-1.4	-0.4	-0.5	0.3		
November.....	-0.7	1.0	-0.6	1.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.1	0.8		

The May 2017 Consumer Price Index for Cleveland is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 14, 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 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 **Cleveland-Akron, Ohio** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties in Ohio.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Cleveland-Akron, OH (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Mar. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017
Expenditure category						
All items	222.241	-	222.849	1.3	0.3	-
All items (1967=100)	712.164	-	714.113	-	-	-
Food and beverages	249.229	-	250.214	-0.2	0.4	-
Food	253.402	-	254.614	-0.4	0.5	-
Food at home	240.233	237.076	240.982	-1.6	0.3	1.6
Food away from home	277.362	-	279.358	1.4	0.7	-
Alcoholic beverages	200.503	-	199.377	2.1	-0.6	-
Housing	207.518	-	207.623	1.7	0.1	-
Shelter	242.465	239.754	242.235	2.0	-0.1	1.0
Rent of primary residence(1)	240.434	239.868	240.779	2.4	0.1	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	236.834	236.585	237.318	2.5	0.2	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	236.834	236.585	237.318	2.5	0.2	0.3
Fuels and utilities	188.261	-	194.592	2.8	3.4	-
Household energy	152.727	156.747	157.572	2.1	3.2	0.5
Energy services(1)	151.106	155.157	155.759	1.8	3.1	0.4
Electricity(1)	156.245	156.245	164.916	-9.2	5.5	5.5
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	127.956	136.786	126.922	27.6	-0.8	-7.2
Household furnishings and operations	118.288	-	114.921	-2.0	-2.8	-
Apparel	129.834	-	136.930	-4.2	5.5	-
Transportation	190.852	-	191.063	0.1	0.1	-
Private transportation	191.448	-	190.969	-0.1	-0.3	-
Motor fuel	233.516	215.504	228.180	15.3	-2.3	5.9
Gasoline (all types)	231.009	213.132	225.717	15.2	-2.3	5.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	217.266	200.171	212.654	15.5	-2.1	6.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	249.832	232.823	240.583	13.4	-3.7	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	255.020	237.758	246.478	13.4	-3.3	3.7
Medical care	445.069	-	445.113	6.4	0.0	-
Recreation(5)	118.715	-	120.320	6.2	1.4	-
Education and communication(5)	126.393	-	125.043	-1.0	-1.1	-
Other goods and services	418.313	-	414.741	-0.6	-0.9	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	222.241	-	222.849	1.3	0.3	-
Commodities	187.979	-	188.244	0.5	0.1	-
Commodities less food & beverages	157.192	-	157.105	1.0	-0.1	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	205.396	-	205.836	4.1	0.2	-
Durables	106.316	-	105.859	-2.9	-0.4	-
Services	256.936	-	257.873	1.9	0.4	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	212.006	-	212.641	0.8	0.3	-
All items less shelter	216.312	-	217.229	1.0	0.4	-
Commodities less food	158.921	-	158.787	1.1	-0.1	-
Nondurables	227.272	-	227.993	1.6	0.3	-
Nondurables less food	204.639	-	204.925	3.9	0.1	-
Services less rent of shelter(2)	277.962	-	280.211	1.6	0.8	-
Services less medical care services	243.831	-	244.809	1.7	0.4	-
Energy	183.829	179.999	185.088	7.5	0.7	2.8
All items less energy	228.068	-	228.622	0.9	0.2	-
All items less food and energy	223.853	-	224.285	1.1	0.2	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.