



For Release: Friday, January 12, 2018

18-23-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

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

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

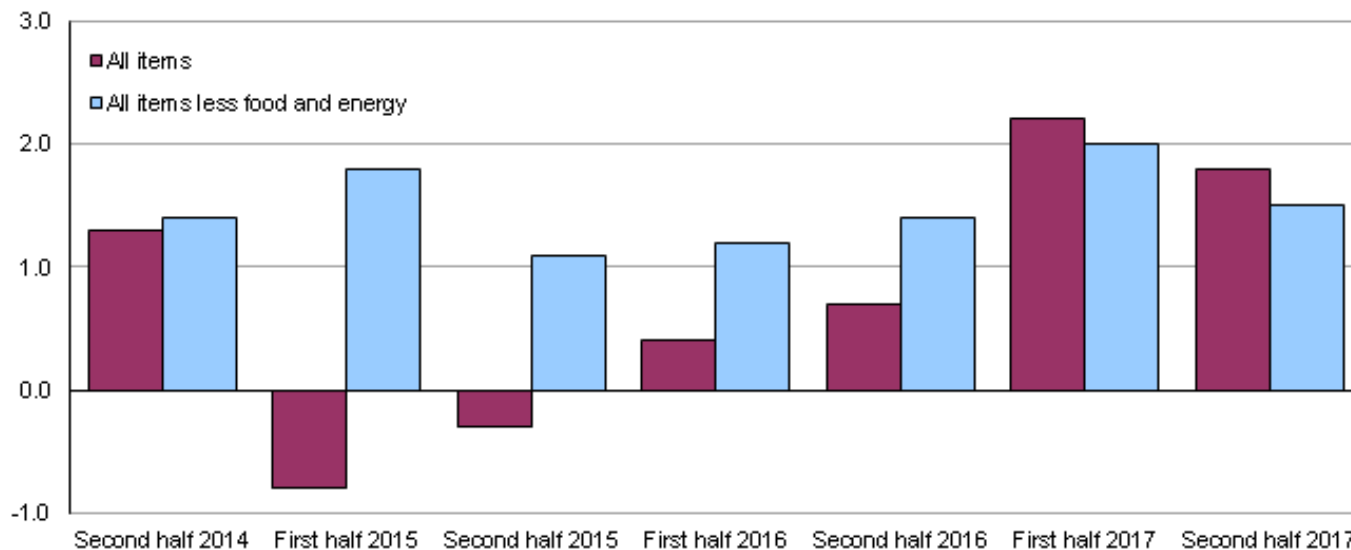
Consumer Price Index, Milwaukee-Racine — Second Half 2017

Local prices up 1.8 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Milwaukee-Racine area rose 1.8 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017, 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 1.5 percent higher compared to its second half 2016 level as price increases were noted in the shelter index. Food prices rose 1.4 percent over the year, and the index for energy increased 5.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Milwaukee, second half 2014–second half 2017

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The 1.4-percent rise in food prices over the year was attributed to a 2.2-percent increase in costs for food at home (grocery) and a 0.2-percent increase in prices for food eaten away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases). In the previous annual period (second half 2015 to second half 2016), food prices in the Milwaukee area rose 0.6 percent.

Energy

Gasoline prices were up 11.0 percent from their second half 2016 levels, contributing to the 5.9-percent rise in energy prices over the year. Costs also rose for utility (piped) gas service (3.0 percent) and electricity (0.5 percent). In the previous annual period, energy costs had fallen 5.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index was 1.5 percent higher over the year. This was primarily due to a 3.0-percent increase in shelter costs.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be discontinued. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm>.

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 **Milwaukee-Racine, Wis.**, consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha 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 Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
Expenditure category					
All Items.....	228.624	232.123	232.718	1.8	0.3
All items (1967=100)	706.129	716.938	718.775	-	-
Food and beverages	250.323	252.286	253.618	1.3	0.5
Food	254.429	256.567	257.985	1.4	0.6
Food at home	241.687	245.679	247.055	2.2	0.6
Food away from home.....	276.054	275.003	276.491	0.2	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	211.536	211.738	212.207	0.3	0.2
Housing	218.560	222.684	223.844	2.4	0.5
Shelter	267.956	273.748	275.960	3.0	0.8
Rent of primary residence(1).....	248.355	251.998	254.784	2.6	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	285.330	290.615	294.123	3.1	1.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	285.330	290.615	294.123	3.1	1.2
Fuels and utilities.....	210.836	211.663	213.703	1.4	1.0
Household energy	171.326	171.898	173.592	1.3	1.0
Energy services(1)	176.627	176.975	178.697	1.2	1.0
Electricity(1).....	214.931	210.829	215.912	0.5	2.4
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	111.114	117.275	114.436	3.0	-2.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	97.677	99.166	97.221	-0.5	-2.0
Apparel	143.494	148.109	142.519	-0.7	-3.8
Transportation	179.366	184.930	185.358	3.3	0.2
Private transportation	171.670	175.972	177.990	3.7	1.1
Motor fuel	198.775	211.158	220.644	11.0	4.5
Gasoline (all types).....	196.116	208.376	217.698	11.0	4.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	193.095	205.490	214.903	11.3	4.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	217.447	228.455	237.893	9.4	4.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....	198.170	208.105	215.101	8.5	3.4
Medical care	501.719	506.096	509.339	1.5	0.6
Recreation(5).....	118.098	119.458	118.311	0.2	-1.0
Education and communication(5).....	149.991	147.566	148.947	-0.7	0.9
Other goods and services	396.424	401.188	402.050	1.4	0.2
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	228.624	232.123	232.718	1.8	0.3
Commodities	176.466	178.776	178.053	0.9	-0.4
Commodities less food & beverages.....	143.453	145.819	144.355	0.6	-1.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	197.039	202.268	203.077	3.1	0.4
Durables	95.803	96.058	93.195	-2.7	-3.0
Services.....	278.752	283.390	285.236	2.3	0.7
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	216.610	220.072	220.550	1.8	0.2
All items less shelter.....	216.266	218.945	218.940	1.2	0.0
Commodities less food	146.038	148.341	146.935	0.6	-0.9
Nondurables	224.313	228.051	229.116	2.1	0.5
Nondurables less food.....	197.877	202.736	203.520	2.9	0.4
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	303.596	307.056	308.527	1.6	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	261.594	266.324	268.166	2.5	0.7
Energy	185.158	190.920	196.052	5.9	2.7
All items less energy	235.264	238.583	238.745	1.5	0.1

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 Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
All items less food and energy	232.968	236.483	236.448	1.5	0.0

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.

Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.