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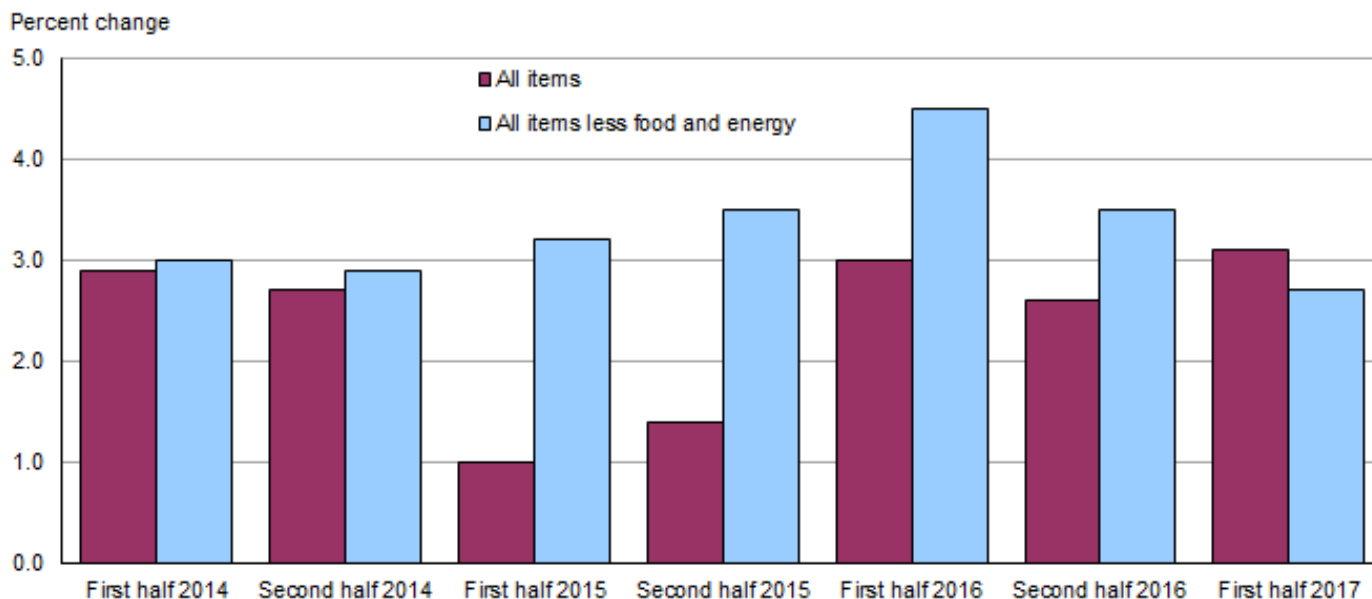
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Consumer Price Index, Denver-Boulder-Greeley – First Half 2017

Prices increased 3.1 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area increased 3.1 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher costs for shelter (5.3 percent) had the greatest impact on the index. The all items less food and energy index, which includes shelter, advanced 2.7 percent over the year. Food prices rose 2.1 percent while the energy index advanced 11.9 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 2.1 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017 after registering little change (0.1 percent) in the same period one year ago. Higher prices for food away from home led the advance with an increase of 4.6 percent—the largest over-the-year gain since the second half of 2008. Prices for food at home crept up 0.2 percent over the year. Comparatively, from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, prices for food at home declined 0.6 percent while costs for food away from home increased 1.0 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, advanced 11.9 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017, following a decrease of 10.4 percent in the same period one year ago. Higher prices for gasoline (16.0 percent) were largely responsible for the increase in the energy component. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also contributed to the increase with gains of 6.6 and 9.3 percent, respectively. During the same period one year ago, gasoline prices fell 13.7 percent, electricity prices declined 3.4 percent and costs for utility (piped) gas service were down 11.1 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017. Shelter costs had the greatest upward impact on the index with a gain of 5.3 percent after rising 7.6 percent in the same period one year ago. Other expenditure categories that registered higher prices over the year included recreation (3.5 percent) and medical care (1.9 percent).

The Denver CPI-U stood at 252.760 for the first half of 2017. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$252.76 in the first half of 2017. Because metropolitan area CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the area indexes.

CPI-W

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area for the first half of 2017 was 241.689. The CPI-W increased 3.2 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017.

The Consumer Price Index for the Second Half of 2017 is scheduled to be released in January 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index will change to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in January, 2018. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: 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/homch17_a.htm.

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 areas; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, and Weld Counties in Colorado.

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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 Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2017 from-	
	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016
Expenditure category					
All Items.....	245.191	248.095	252.760	3.1	1.9
All items (1967=100)	817.610	827.292	842.848		
Food and beverages	224.530	224.091	229.067	2.0	2.2
Food	227.741	227.203	232.618	2.1	2.4
Food at home	223.946	222.169	224.394	0.2	1.0
Food away from home.....	232.749	233.853	243.499	4.6	4.1
Alcoholic beverages	199.326	200.065	200.028	0.4	0.0
Housing	240.077	246.318	252.354	5.1	2.5
Shelter	276.332	283.244	290.950	5.3	2.7
Rent of primary residence(1).....	286.285	293.807	300.287	4.9	2.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	269.430	277.153	284.845	5.7	2.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2) ..	269.430	277.153	284.845	5.7	2.8
Fuels and utilities.....	217.851	231.863	233.595	7.2	0.7
Household energy	152.934	163.152	164.590	7.6	0.9
Energy services(1)	151.995	162.349	163.451	7.5	0.7
Electricity(1).....	159.892	170.539	170.473	6.6	0.0
Utility (pipd) gas service(1).....	139.428	149.344	152.455	9.3	2.1
Household furnishings and operations	113.338	113.084	114.643	1.2	1.4
Apparel	106.257	103.013	99.003	-6.8	-3.9
Transportation	235.174	238.249	244.718	4.1	2.7
Private transportation	227.926	231.242	235.850	3.5	2.0
Motor fuel	164.514	179.912	190.957	16.1	6.1
Gasoline (all types).....	163.465	178.652	189.597	16.0	6.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	157.649	172.298	183.156	16.2	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	165.068	180.051	190.075	15.1	5.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....	184.129	201.278	211.872	15.1	5.3
Medical Care	532.513	539.710	542.666	1.9	0.5
Recreation(5).....	155.196	154.141	160.585	3.5	4.2
Education and communication(5).....	126.914	125.722	123.867	-2.4	-1.5
Other goods and services	357.784	356.968	352.192	-1.6	-1.3
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items.....	245.191	248.095	252.760	3.1	1.9
Commodities	166.683	166.325	167.500	0.5	0.7
Commodities less food & beverages.....	137.173	136.861	136.333	-0.6	-0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages	160.177	161.990	161.347	0.7	-0.4
Durables	113.324	111.049	110.637	-2.4	-0.4
Services.....	313.759	319.957	328.053	4.6	2.5
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	231.897	234.609	239.291	3.2	2.0
All items less shelter.....	230.473	231.424	234.612	1.8	1.4
Commodities less food	139.615	139.336	138.822	-0.6	-0.4
Nondurables	192.590	193.339	195.388	1.5	1.1
Nondurables less food.....	162.734	164.477	163.874	0.7	-0.4
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	365.129	369.432	377.617	3.4	2.2
Services less medical care services.....	295.219	301.501	309.703	4.9	2.7
Energy	155.388	167.858	173.818	11.9	3.6
All items less energy	254.500	256.663	261.265	2.7	1.8
All items less food and energy	260.025	262.726	267.170	2.7	1.7

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 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.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2017 from-	
	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016
Expenditure category					
All Items.....	234.248	237.407	241.689	3.2	1.8
All items (1967=100)	779.702	790.215	804.468		
Food and beverages	226.124	225.556	230.377	1.9	2.1
Food	229.441	228.762	233.867	1.9	2.2
Food at home	225.051	223.348	225.113	0.0	0.8
Food away from home.....	236.510	237.641	248.617	5.1	4.6
Alcoholic beverages	204.451	205.924	206.146	0.8	0.1
Housing	233.873	240.059	245.846	5.1	2.4
Shelter	264.809	271.405	278.579	5.2	2.6
Rent of primary residence(1).....	286.285	293.807	300.287	4.9	2.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	251.526	258.736	265.916	5.7	2.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2) ..	251.526	258.736	265.916	5.7	2.8
Fuels and utilities.....	211.457	225.042	226.611	7.2	0.7
Household energy	151.778	162.018	163.289	7.6	0.8
Energy services(1)	152.252	162.624	163.735	7.5	0.7
Electricity(1).....	159.892	170.538	170.472	6.6	0.0
Utility (pipd) gas service(1).....	139.430	149.345	152.456	9.3	2.1
Household furnishings and operations	119.453	119.143	121.626	1.8	2.1
Apparel	105.544	103.834	100.087	-5.2	-3.6
Transportation	233.772	239.213	246.935	5.6	3.2
Private transportation	228.587	234.169	240.824	5.4	2.8
Motor fuel	164.725	180.080	191.123	16.0	6.1
Gasoline (all types).....	163.463	178.650	189.594	16.0	6.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	157.652	172.301	183.159	16.2	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	165.068	180.051	190.075	15.1	5.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....	184.154	201.305	211.901	15.1	5.3
Medical Care	536.704	543.516	545.846	1.7	0.4
Recreation(5).....	133.633	132.771	136.663	2.3	2.9
Education and communication(5).....	120.633	119.256	116.086	-3.8	-2.7
Other goods and services	360.636	358.079	350.222	-2.9	-2.2
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items.....	234.248	237.407	241.689	3.2	1.8
Commodities	169.564	169.457	171.022	0.9	0.9
Commodities less food & beverages.....	139.011	139.155	138.955	0.0	-0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	165.352	167.649	167.376	1.2	-0.2
Durables	109.859	107.777	107.655	-2.0	-0.1
Services.....	298.989	305.776	313.010	4.7	2.4
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	222.695	225.708	229.971	3.3	1.9
All items less shelter.....	221.947	223.606	226.634	2.1	1.4
Commodities less food	141.136	141.314	141.124	0.0	-0.1
Nondurables	198.723	199.554	201.928	1.6	1.2
Nondurables less food.....	167.683	169.946	169.697	1.2	-0.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	328.328	334.608	341.166	3.9	2.0
Services less medical care services.....	280.954	287.703	294.871	5.0	2.5
Energy	159.818	172.686	178.778	11.9	3.5
All items less energy	242.845	245.188	249.352	2.7	1.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2017 from-	
	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016
All items less food and energy	246.030	249.118	253.047	2.9	1.6

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 1984=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.