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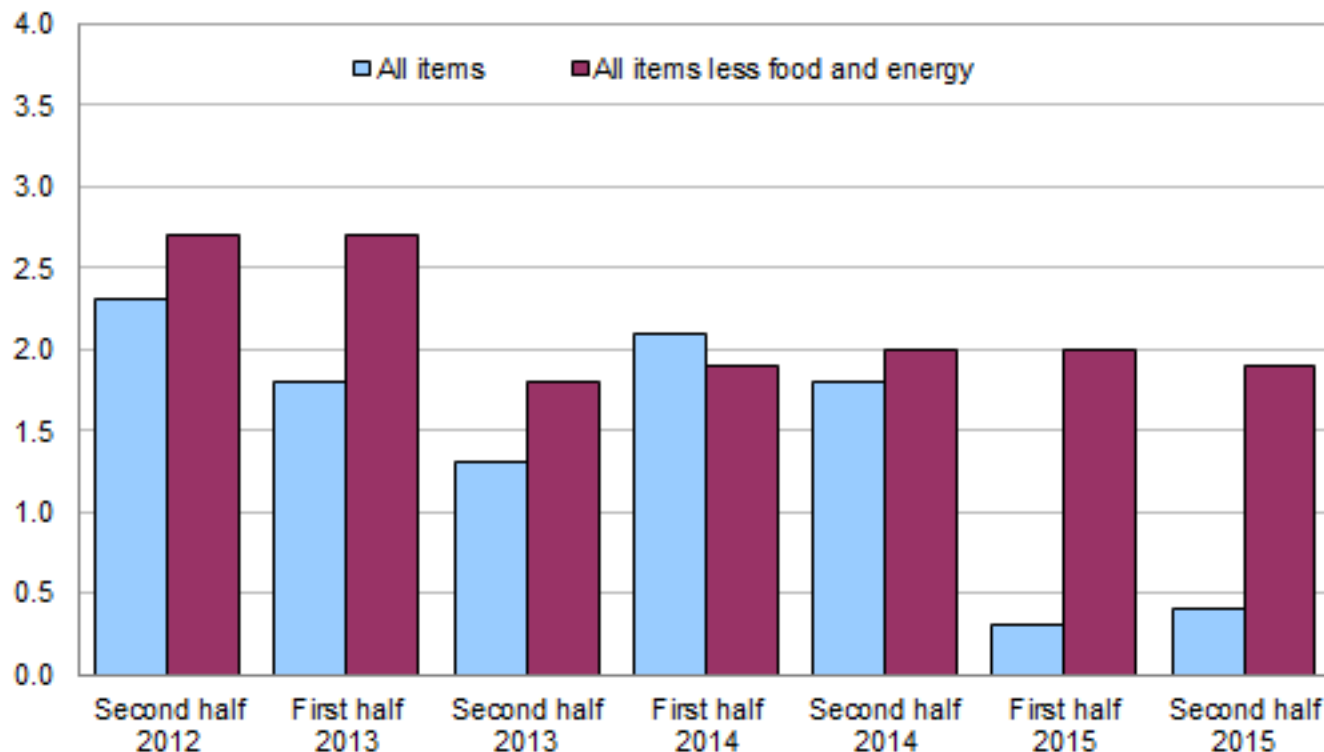
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Consumer Price Index for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater – Second Half 2015 **Local prices up 0.4 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area rose 0.4 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the all items less food and energy index was 1.9 percent higher compared to its second half 2014 level as price increases were noted for several categories, most notably shelter. Food prices advanced 2.3 percent over the year while the index for energy fell 16.1 percent. (See [chart 1.](#))

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

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 2.3 percent since the second half of 2014. Prices for food away from home and food at home were up 3.1 and 1.9 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index fell 16.1 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, primarily due to a 28.2-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices also declined for electricity (-1.3 percent) but edged up 0.2 percent for utility (piped) gas service over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent since the second half of 2014. Several components contributed to the increase including shelter (3.6 percent), medical care (3.5 percent), education and communication (0.8 percent) and apparel (1.5 percent).

The Consumer Price Index for January 2016 is scheduled to be released on Friday, February 19, 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 **Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.** metropolitan statistical area covered in this release is comprised of Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties in Florida.

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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 Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=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
Expenditure category					
All Items.....	210.895	211.414	211.699	0.4	0.1
Food and beverages	216.457	218.420	220.932	2.1	1.2
Food	216.088	218.144	220.984	2.3	1.3
Food at home	222.219	224.187	226.422	1.9	1.0
Food away from home.....	206.460	209.072	212.819	3.1	1.8
Alcoholic beverages	208.083	208.584	206.233	-0.9	-1.1
Housing	198.052	202.433	203.529	2.8	0.5
Shelter	219.885	225.876	227.835	3.6	0.9
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	220.825	227.301	228.878	3.6	0.7
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾	231.208	237.225	239.792	3.7	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ..	231.208	237.225	239.792	3.7	1.1
Fuels and utilities.....	212.635	211.931	212.273	-0.2	0.2
Household energy	173.942	171.886	171.464	-1.4	-0.2
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	171.260	169.510	169.242	-1.2	-0.2
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	168.299	167.041	166.029	-1.3	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	259.493	250.972	260.101	0.2	3.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	113.710	113.824	112.021	-1.5	-1.6
Apparel.....	163.726	163.642	166.111	1.5	1.5
Transportation	202.976	189.782	185.070	-8.8	-2.5
Private transportation	208.428	193.633	188.856	-9.4	-2.5
Motor fuel	337.335	265.765	242.147	-28.2	-8.9
Gasoline (all types).....	330.039	259.970	237.552	-28.0	-8.6
Unleaded regular ⁽²⁾	325.693	254.620	231.290	-29.0	-9.2
Unleaded midgrade ^{(2) (3)}	290.048	232.570	214.245	-26.1	-7.9
Unleaded premium ⁽²⁾	334.933	270.390	253.542	-24.3	-6.2
Medical Care	358.484	363.366	370.869	3.5	2.1
Recreation ⁽⁴⁾	124.912	126.097	123.943	-0.8	-1.7
Education and communication ⁽⁴⁾	139.104	139.656	140.190	0.8	0.4
Other goods and services	293.108	296.536	294.129	0.3	-0.8
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	210.895	211.414	211.699	0.4	0.1
Commodities	176.915	173.268	172.569	-2.5	-0.4
Commodities less food & beverages.....	155.652	149.312	147.052	-5.5	-1.5
Nondurables less food & beverages	230.549	216.134	212.972	-7.6	-1.5
Durables	92.970	92.761	91.279	-1.8	-1.6
Services.....	241.242	245.340	246.472	2.2	0.5
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	202.865	203.187	203.150	0.1	0.0
All items less shelter.....	208.252	206.130	205.661	-1.2	-0.2
Commodities less food	158.719	152.535	150.250	-5.3	-1.5
Nondurables	222.363	216.658	216.512	-2.6	-0.1
Nondurables less food.....	229.094	215.703	212.595	-7.2	-1.4
Services less rent of shelter	265.306	266.337	266.335	0.4	0.0
Services less medical care services.....	229.595	233.662	234.655	2.2	0.4
Energy	235.781	207.206	197.935	-16.1	-4.5
All items less energy	208.497	211.451	212.560	1.9	0.5
All items less food and energy	207.331	210.454	211.247	1.9	0.4

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) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

NOTE: Data not seasonally adjusted.