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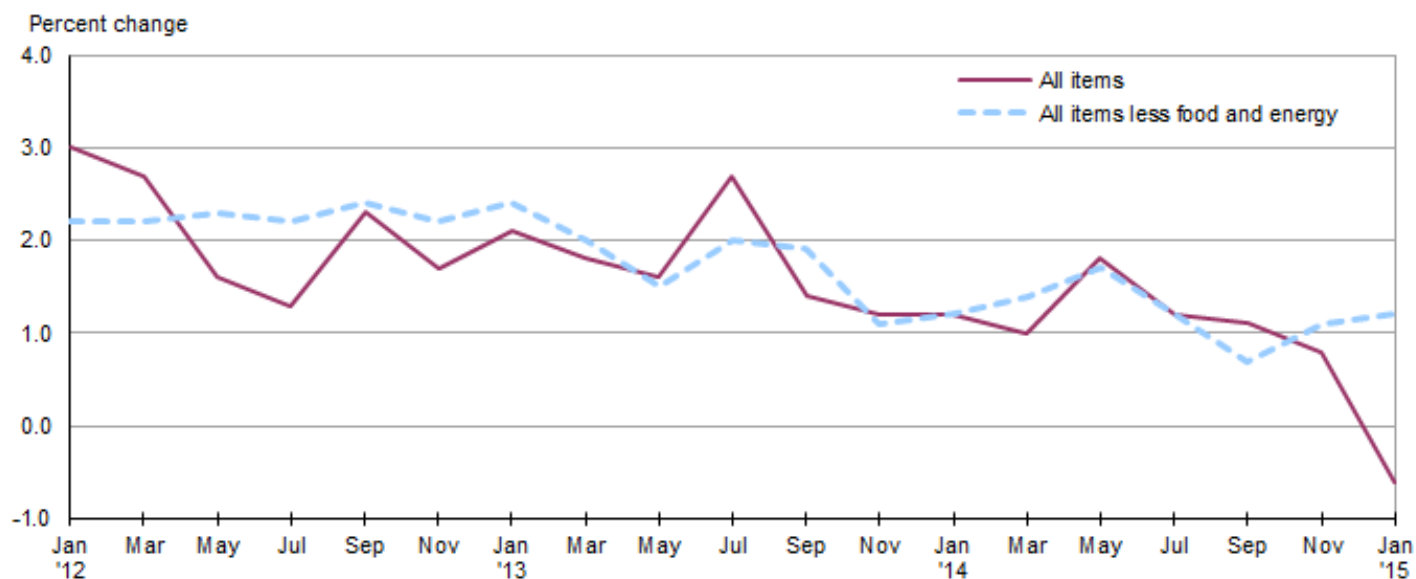
Consumer Price Index, Dallas-Fort Worth – January 2015

Area prices fall 1.1 percent during two-month period, down 0.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Dallas-Fort Worth fell 1.1 percent in December-January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the decline was the result of falling energy prices, particularly a 29.1-percent decrease in gasoline prices. Partially offsetting this decrease, the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent and food prices edged up 0.2 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U declined 0.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) This marked the first annual decline registered for the overall index since the year ending in November 2010 when prices decreased 0.4 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.2 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, January 2012–January 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.2 percent in December and January, after registering little change in October and November. Among the two components of the index, prices for food at home (grocery stores) rose 0.4 percent, while prices for food away from home were little changed, down 0.1 percent.

From January 2014 to January 2015, the food index rose 2.3 percent, reflecting price increases for both food at home (3.0 percent) and food away from home (1.3 percent).

Energy

The energy index fell 14.4 percent in December and January following an 11.6-percent decrease in October and November. The current decline was primarily the result of a 29.1-percent decrease in gasoline prices, the largest negative price movement for this index since November and December 2008 (-48.4 percent). Also contributing to the current decrease were lower prices for natural gas, down 2.7 percent. In contrast, a 1.4-percent increase in electricity prices moderated the overall change in the energy index.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 19.3 percent. As with the bimonthly decline, the leading factor in the annual decrease was lower motor fuel costs, as gasoline prices fell 40.1-percent from January 2014. Partially offsetting the gasoline decline, natural gas costs rose 11.9 percent and electricity prices increased 7.1 percent during the period.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in December and January. Among the leading factors in the advance were higher prices for shelter (0.9 percent), medical care (2.6 percent), and recreation (1.0 percent). Slowing these gains, apparel prices declined 4.2 percent during the period.

From January 2014 to January 2015, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.2 percent. The biggest factor was a 3.3-percent advance in shelter costs, though higher prices for medical care (up 4.2 percent) also contributed. Countering a portion of these annual increases, the cost of apparel fell 5.8 percent and education and communication prices declined 2.4 percent from January 2014.

The March 2015 Consumer Price Index for All Items for Dallas-Fort Worth will be released Friday, April 17, 2015.

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

The **Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)** includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant Counties.

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014
All items	217.188		214.899	-0.6	-1.1	
All items (1967 = 100)	681.308		674.127			
Food and beverages	249.432		249.845	2.0	0.2	
Food	244.140		244.601	2.3	0.2	
Food at home	222.199	222.125	223.150	3.0	0.4	0.5
Food away from home	278.115		277.723	1.3	-0.1	
Alcoholic beverages	318.950		318.315	-1.9	-0.2	
Housing	195.129		196.475	3.2	0.7	
Shelter	207.262	207.868	209.221	3.3	0.9	0.7
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	216.735	217.244	218.230	5.2	0.7	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	222.964	224.065	224.533	2.9	0.7	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	222.964	224.065	224.533	2.9	0.7	0.2
Fuels and utilities	229.666		231.120	6.1	0.6	
Household energy	220.844	222.831	222.188	7.3	0.6	-0.3
Energy services ⁽¹⁾ ⁽³⁾	216.896	218.958	218.608	7.8	0.8	-0.2
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	206.378	209.650	209.344	7.1	1.4	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	220.888	215.334	214.821	11.9	-2.7	-0.2
Household furnishings and operations	128.014		126.810	-1.2	-0.9	
Apparel	112.281		107.610	-5.8	-4.2	
Transportation	210.720		193.314	-11.8	-8.3	
Private transportation	212.746		194.507	-12.1	-8.6	
Motor fuel	246.647	208.035	175.697	-39.7	-28.8	-15.5
Gasoline (all types)	244.092	205.120	173.128	-40.1	-29.1	-15.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	238.003	198.802	166.947	-41.2	-29.9	-16.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾	252.818	215.774	183.493	-37.9	-27.4	-15.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	251.051	214.821	185.262	-36.4	-26.2	-13.8
Medical care	400.872		411.132	4.2	2.6	
Recreation ⁽⁶⁾	111.302		112.462	0.4	1.0	
Education and communication ⁽⁶⁾	137.720		137.420	-2.4	-0.2	
Other goods and services	377.385		380.701	1.0	0.9	
COMMODITY AND SERVICE GROUP						
Commodities	178.986		171.735	-5.7	-4.1	
Commodities less food and beverages	146.470		136.805	-10.2	-6.6	
Nondurables less food and beverages	176.635		159.012	-15.1	-10.0	
Durables	119.519		117.036	-3.3	-2.1	
Services	254.517		257.129	3.0	1.0	
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
All items less shelter	222.423		218.238	-2.2	-1.9	
All items less medical care	208.172		205.364	-1.0	-1.3	
Commodities less food	151.103		141.470	-9.9	-6.4	
Nondurables	210.123		200.101	-6.6	-4.8	
Nondurables less food	183.643		166.386	-14.3	-9.4	
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	322.768		326.305	2.8	1.1	
Services less medical care services	239.692		241.605	3.0	0.8	
Energy	234.884	217.196	201.177	-19.3	-14.4	-7.4
All items less energy	219.281		219.851	1.3	0.3	
All items less food and energy	215.218		215.806	1.2	0.3	

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) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Prior to January 2011 this series was titled Gas (piped) and electricity.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

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

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

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