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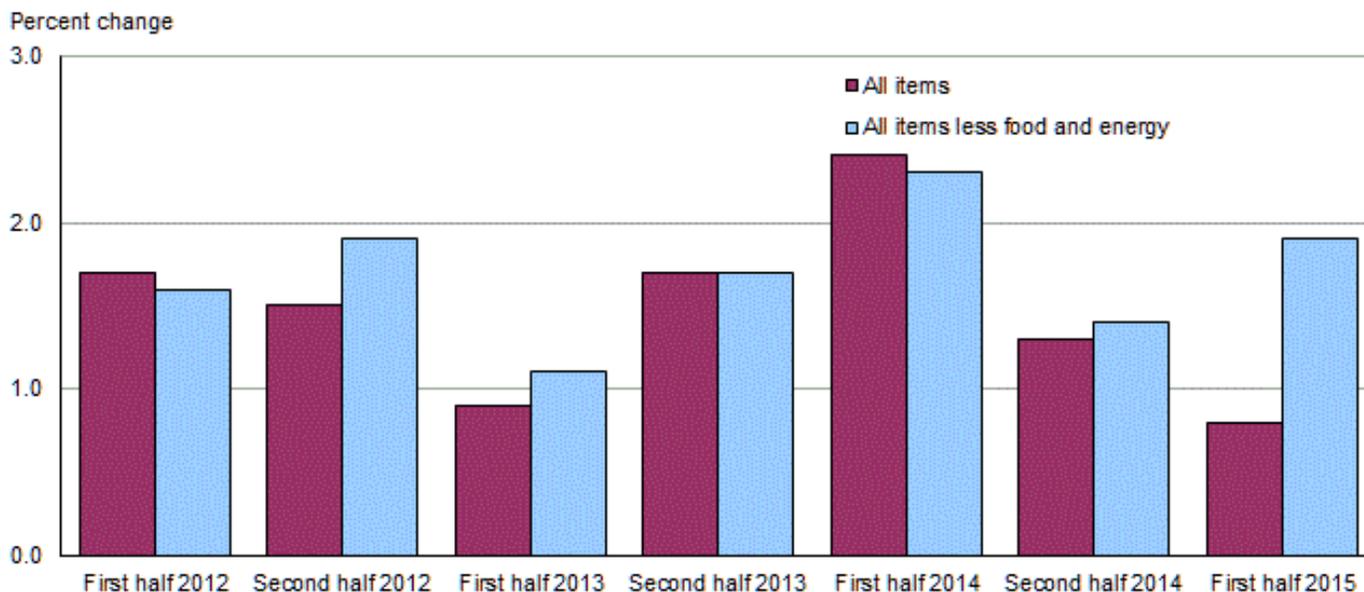
Consumer Price Index, San Diego - First Half 2015

Area prices up 0.9 percent over the past six months, up 0.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the greater San Diego area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.9 percent in the first half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that this latest six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, six-month-to-six-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the past 12 months, the CPI-U rose 0.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices decreased 10.5 percent, largely the result of lower prices for gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Diego, first half 2012–first half 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 0.4 percent in the first half of 2015. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home increased 1.3 percent for the past six months. Prices for food at home declined 0.6 percent for the same period.

For the year ending in the first half of 2015, food prices rose 1.6 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.2 percent, and prices for food at home increased 0.6 percent during the past 12 months.

Energy

Energy prices declined 4.6 percent since the second half of 2014. The decrease was influenced by gasoline prices, which dropped 8.6 percent. Natural gas service prices declined 3.0 percent, but electricity prices gained 4.9 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 10.5 percent over the year, strongly influenced by an 18.7 percent decrease in gasoline prices. Natural gas service prices moved down 2.4 percent, but prices for electricity increased 10.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent from the second half of 2014 to the first half of 2015. Among the index components, price increases were recorded for apparel (5.0 percent), shelter (2.0 percent), and household furnishings and operations (0.7 percent). In contrast, prices declined for recreation (-1.7 percent), other goods and services (-1.4 percent), and education and communication (-1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.9 percent. Prices increased for shelter (3.1 percent), alcoholic beverages (2.4 percent), and apparel (0.8 percent). Partially offsetting the increases were lower prices for other goods and services (-1.8 percent), recreation (-1.5 percent), and education and communication (-0.6 percent).

Table A. San Diego CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

| Month | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | Semi-annual | Annual |
| First Half | 0.2 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 3.4 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Second Half | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 2.7 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.7 | -0.1 | 1.3 | | |

The second half of 2015 Consumer Price Index for San Diego is scheduled to be released mid-January 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 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 cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The San Diego, CA metropolitan area covered in this release consists of San Diego County in the State of California.

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 San Diego, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to 1st half 2015 from- | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
| | 1st half 2014 | 2nd half 2014 | 1st half 2015 | 1st half 2014 | 2nd half 2014 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | |
| All items | 265.251 | 265.039 | 267.346 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| All items (1967=100) | 896.895 | 896.178 | 903.977 | - | - |
| Food and beverages | 241.797 | 244.716 | 245.892 | 1.7 | 0.5 |
| Food | 238.846 | 241.836 | 242.713 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| Food at home | 222.500 | 225.005 | 223.746 | 0.6 | -0.6 |
| Food away from home | 258.279 | 263.314 | 266.663 | 3.2 | 1.3 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 264.228 | 266.241 | 270.694 | 2.4 | 1.7 |
| Housing | 291.893 | 294.532 | 300.113 | 2.8 | 1.9 |
| Shelter | 326.544 | 329.977 | 336.524 | 3.1 | 2.0 |
| Rent of primary residence | 319.094 | 322.979 | 329.807 | 3.4 | 2.1 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ | 348.321 | 351.241 | 358.339 | 2.9 | 2.0 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ .. | 348.321 | 351.241 | 358.339 | 2.9 | 2.0 |
| Fuels and utilities | 271.941 | 270.773 | 276.688 | 1.7 | 2.2 |
| Household energy | 227.904 | 237.777 | 244.848 | 7.4 | 3.0 |
| Energy services | 222.429 | 232.333 | 239.701 | 7.8 | 3.2 |
| Electricity | 208.845 | 220.539 | 231.328 | 10.8 | 4.9 |
| Utility (piped) gas service | 195.329 | 196.419 | 190.601 | -2.4 | -3.0 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 181.269 | 182.221 | 183.531 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| Apparel | 141.401 | 135.721 | 142.571 | 0.8 | 5.0 |
| Transportation | 228.254 | 218.362 | 213.587 | -6.4 | -2.2 |
| Private transportation | 218.584 | 209.886 | 204.296 | -6.5 | -2.7 |
| Motor fuel | 319.319 | 284.058 | 259.482 | -18.7 | -8.7 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 319.363 | 283.979 | 259.634 | -18.7 | -8.6 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽²⁾ | 332.863 | 295.533 | 269.850 | -18.9 | -8.7 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(2) (3)} | 272.546 | 242.955 | 222.721 | -18.3 | -8.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽²⁾ | 320.364 | 286.446 | 262.957 | -17.9 | -8.2 |
| Medical care | 420.045 | - | - | - | - |
| Recreation ⁽⁴⁾ | 148.429 | 148.738 | 146.264 | -1.5 | -1.7 |
| Education and communication ⁽⁴⁾ | 146.082 | 146.694 | 145.187 | -0.6 | -1.0 |
| Other goods and services | 372.694 | 370.999 | 365.906 | -1.8 | -1.4 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | |
| All Items | 265.251 | 265.039 | 267.346 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Commodities | 201.906 | 197.980 | 196.178 | -2.8 | -0.9 |
| Commodities less food & beverages | 180.354 | 173.024 | 169.752 | -5.9 | -1.9 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages | 206.847 | 194.996 | 190.045 | -8.1 | -2.5 |
| Durables | 150.520 | 149.613 | 148.717 | -1.2 | -0.6 |
| Services | 321.399 | 324.358 | 330.201 | 2.7 | 1.8 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 257.887 | 257.417 | 259.151 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| All items less shelter | 242.288 | 240.352 | 240.755 | -0.6 | 0.2 |
| Commodities less food | 184.177 | 177.202 | 174.229 | -5.4 | -1.7 |
| Nondurables | 226.220 | 221.091 | 218.911 | -3.2 | -1.0 |
| Nondurables less food | 212.555 | 201.521 | 197.145 | -7.2 | -2.2 |
| Services less rent of shelter ⁽¹⁾ | 333.407 | 335.845 | 340.928 | 2.3 | 1.5 |
| Services less medical care services | 311.069 | 313.695 | 318.641 | 2.4 | 1.6 |
| Energy | 279.152 | 261.787 | 249.757 | -10.5 | -4.6 |
| All items less energy | 265.795 | 267.150 | 270.683 | 1.8 | 1.3 |
| All items less food and energy | 271.964 | 273.026 | 277.064 | 1.9 | 1.5 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes

- (1) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.
 - (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.
- Data not available.