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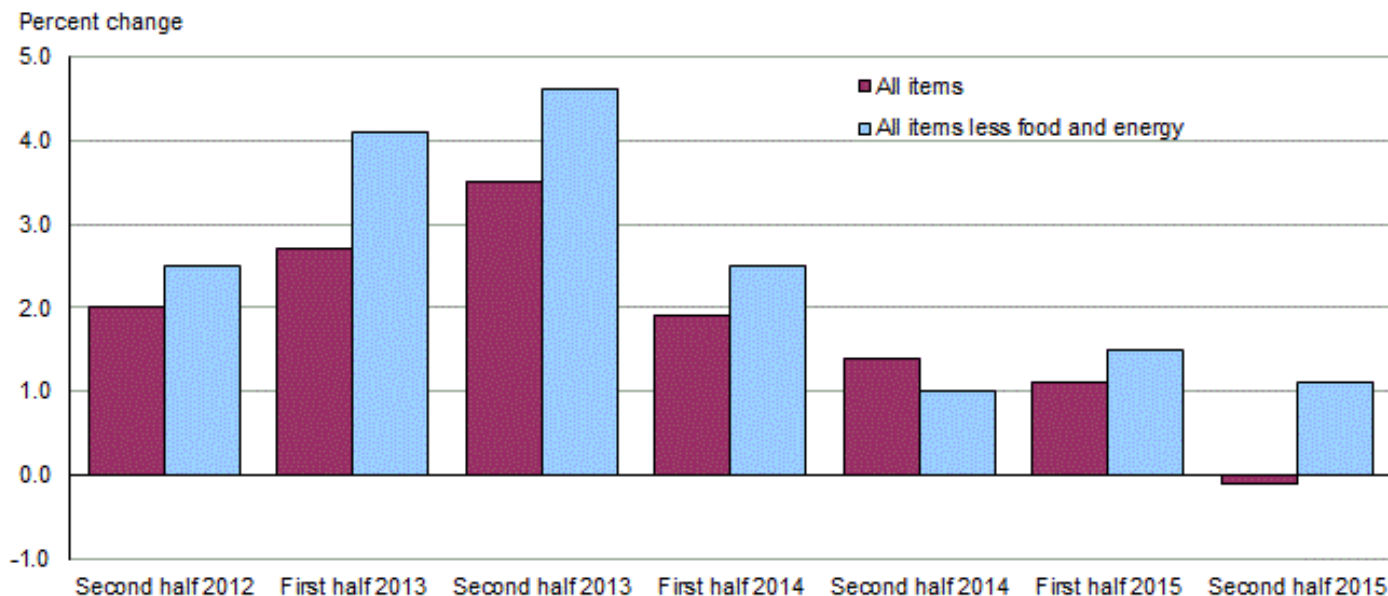
Consumer Price Index, Anchorage – Second Half 2015

Area prices were down 0.2 percent over the past six months, down 0.1 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Anchorage Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), decreased 0.2 percent in the second half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted this latest six-month decrease was influenced by lower prices for recreation and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, six-month-to-six-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U edged down 0.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#)) Energy prices dropped 13.2 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.1 percent over the year.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices remained unchanged in the second half of 2015. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home decreased 0.2 percent, and prices for food away from home increased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 0.8 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 1.8 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home moved up 0.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 3.3 percent since the first half of 2015. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-3.0 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 8.3 percent, but prices for electricity increased 0.9 percent for the same period.

Energy prices dropped 13.2 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-25.1 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service moved down 5.1 percent, but prices for electricity moved up 5.9 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in the latest six-month period. Higher prices for apparel (3.7 percent), medical care (1.1 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-1.7 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (2.7 percent), medical care (3.5 percent), and shelter (1.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in recreation (-1.4 percent) and other goods and services (-0.6 percent).

Table A. Anchorage CPI-U semi-annual and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual
First Half	0.7	2.5	2.5	2.8	1.3	2.5	2.1	2.7	0.4	1.9	0.1	1.1
Second Half	0.3	1.0	1.1	3.6	0.7	2.0	1.4	3.5	1.0	1.4	-0.2	-0.1

The first half of 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Anchorage is scheduled to be released on July 15, 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 Anchorage, AK. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Anchorage Borough in the State of Alaska.

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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 Anchorage, AK (1982-84=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	216.833	217.111	216.706	-0.1	-0.2
All items (1967=100)	578.759	579.500	578.418	-	-
Food and beverages	208.626	210.268	210.120	0.7	-0.1
Food	214.395	216.122	216.150	0.8	0.0
Food at home	215.980	216.866	216.361	0.2	-0.2
Food away from home	210.999	213.840	214.715	1.8	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	150.323	151.103	149.191	-0.8	-1.3
Housing	197.919	201.025	200.734	1.4	-0.1
Shelter	201.388	203.999	204.681	1.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence	199.024	201.004	201.320	1.2	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾	203.023	205.315	206.192	1.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ..	203.023	205.315	206.192	1.6	0.4
Fuels and utilities	287.514	299.184	290.116	0.9	-3.0
Household energy	299.673	309.502	298.761	-0.3	-3.5
Energy services	327.750	341.643	330.223	0.8	-3.3
Electricity	269.702	282.993	285.679	5.9	0.9
Utility (piped) gas service	412.794	427.050	391.600	-5.1	-8.3
Household furnishings and operations	126.188	126.824	126.476	0.2	-0.3
Apparel	157.839	156.327	162.170	2.7	3.7
Transportation	224.134	212.071	208.790	-6.8	-1.5
Private transportation	227.948	213.479	210.999	-7.4	-1.2
Motor fuel	301.754	233.301	225.864	-25.1	-3.2
Gasoline (all types)	302.434	233.608	226.490	-25.1	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽²⁾	294.223	226.641	219.648	-25.3	-3.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(2) (3)}	285.221	221.460	214.863	-24.7	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽²⁾	294.080	230.024	223.439	-24.0	-2.9
Medical care	493.189	504.742	510.228	3.5	1.1
Recreation ⁽⁴⁾	120.625	120.976	118.896	-1.4	-1.7
Education and communication ⁽⁴⁾	116.547	119.529	119.268	2.3	-0.2
Other goods and services	331.638	329.681	329.651	-0.6	0.0
Commodity and service group					
All Items	216.833	217.111	216.706	-0.1	-0.2
Commodities	182.008	177.742	177.150	-2.7	-0.3
Commodities less food & beverages	167.832	160.545	159.726	-4.8	-0.5
Nondurables less food & beverages	216.666	201.039	202.718	-6.4	0.8
Durables	126.031	126.401	123.220	-2.2	-2.5
Services	246.399	250.782	250.549	1.7	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	206.600	206.540	205.962	-0.3	-0.3
All items less shelter	222.257	221.304	220.345	-0.9	-0.4
Commodities less food	167.454	160.508	159.639	-4.7	-0.5
Nondurables	213.466	206.749	207.485	-2.8	0.4
Nondurables less food	211.909	197.659	199.027	-6.1	0.7
Services less rent of shelter ⁽¹⁾	318.519	325.761	323.923	1.7	-0.6
Services less medical care services	229.896	233.861	233.542	1.6	-0.1
Energy	295.204	265.053	256.191	-13.2	-3.3
All items less energy	212.378	214.495	214.659	1.1	0.1
All items less food and energy	212.343	214.538	214.727	1.1	0.1

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.