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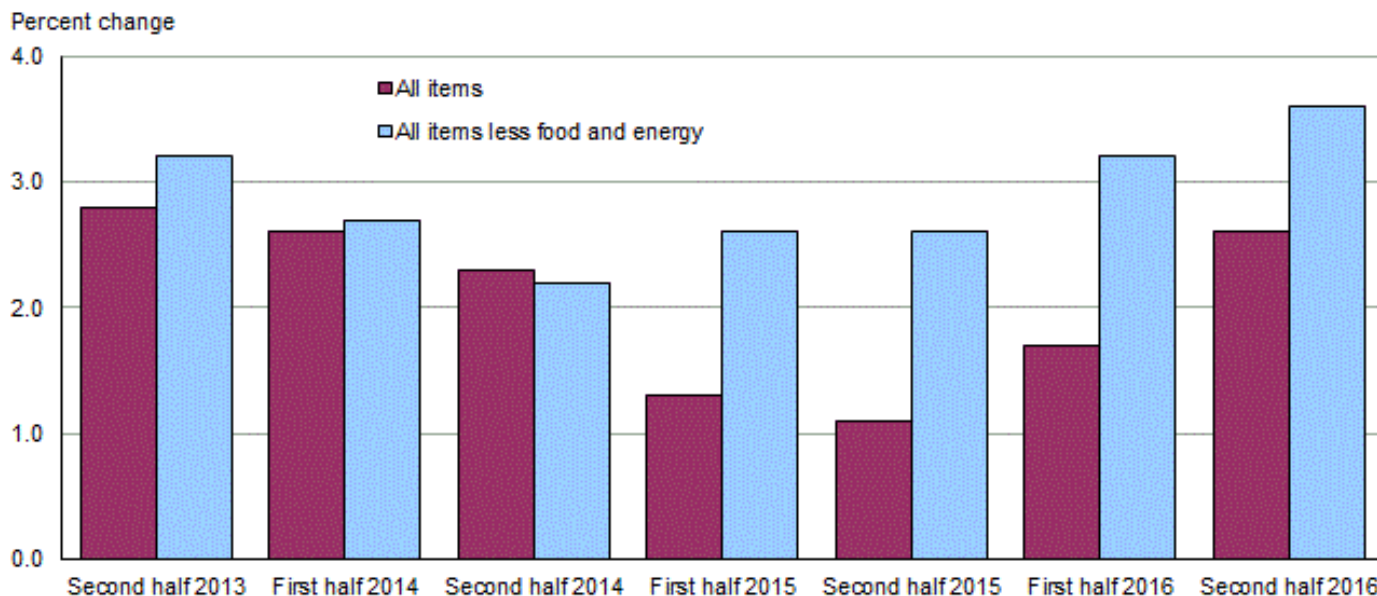
Consumer Price Index, Portland – Second Half 2016

Area prices were up 1.8 percent over the past six months, up 2.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Portland Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 1.8 percent in the second half of 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that this latest six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter 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 rose 2.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices declined 3.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Portland, second half 2013–second half 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.1 percent in the second half of 2016. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home advanced 1.3 percent, but prices for food at home decreased 0.8 percent.

Over the year, food prices declined 0.3 percent. Prices for food at home decreased 1.6 percent, but prices for food away from home were 1.5 percent higher than a year ago.

Energy

The energy index advanced 6.0 percent since the first half of 2016. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (10.5 percent). Prices for electricity rose 1.8 percent, but prices for natural gas service fell 0.8 percent.

Energy prices declined 3.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-6.7 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service decreased 5.8 percent, and prices for electricity decreased 0.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent in the latest six-month period. Higher prices for shelter (3.7 percent) and recreation (1.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for medical care (-0.9 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (6.8 percent) and education and communication (1.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in medical care (-1.7 percent), and apparel (-0.1 percent).

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual
First Half	1.8	2.6	1.2	2.5	1.3	2.2	1.0	2.6	0.1	1.3	0.7	1.7
Second Half	1.3	3.1	0.9	2.1	1.5	2.8	1.2	2.3	1.0	1.1	1.8	2.6

The First Half of 2017 Consumer Price Index for the Portland-Salem, OR is scheduled to be released on July 14, 2017.

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 Portland-Salem, OR, WA metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon and Clark County in the State of Washington.

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 Portland-Salem, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2016 from-	
	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016
Expenditure category					
All items	245.405	247.143	251.710	2.6	1.8
All items (1967=100)	718.442	723.531	736.903	-	-
Food and beverages	232.739	232.297	232.822	0.0	0.2
Food	235.428	234.485	234.769	-0.3	0.1
Food at home	219.360	217.569	215.919	-1.6	-0.8
Food away from home	261.379	261.834	265.226	1.5	1.3
Alcoholic beverages	205.985	210.728	213.679	3.7	1.4
Housing	248.253	254.357	262.228	5.6	3.1
Shelter	292.802	301.740	312.818	6.8	3.7
Rent of primary residence	292.109	302.277	314.295	7.6	4.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)	305.104	314.407	325.023	6.5	3.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1) ..	305.104	314.407	325.023	6.5	3.4
Fuels and utilities	262.123	257.600	262.894	0.3	2.1
Household energy	208.248	202.297	204.951	-1.6	1.3
Energy services	256.444	248.908	251.943	-1.8	1.2
Electricity	300.854	294.026	299.251	-0.5	1.8
Utility (piped) gas service	165.000	156.704	155.421	-5.8	-0.8
Household furnishings and operations	103.998	105.882	105.048	1.0	-0.8
Apparel	126.788	126.307	126.708	-0.1	0.3
Transportation	217.482	213.566	219.120	0.8	2.6
Private transportation	220.921	214.429	223.478	1.2	4.2
Motor fuel	231.202	195.237	215.924	-6.6	10.6
Gasoline (all types)	233.415	197.111	217.892	-6.7	10.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(2)	230.443	193.746	214.414	-7.0	10.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(2)(3)	199.685	170.250	188.367	-5.7	10.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(2)	219.688	188.269	207.417	-5.6	10.2
Medical care	540.855	536.015	531.392	-1.7	-0.9
Recreation(4)	108.598	107.822	109.339	0.7	1.4
Education and communication(4)	113.115	114.347	114.882	1.6	0.5
Other goods and services	469.041	467.414	474.017	1.1	1.4
Commodity and service group					
All Items	245.405	247.143	251.710	2.6	1.8
Commodities	177.714	174.372	175.305	-1.4	0.5
Commodities less food & beverages	150.988	146.300	147.438	-2.4	0.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	188.622	178.594	181.847	-3.6	1.8
Durables	111.079	111.463	110.644	-0.4	-0.7
Services	313.596	320.472	328.749	4.8	2.6
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	232.264	234.220	239.088	2.9	2.1
All items less shelter	227.369	226.027	227.889	0.2	0.8
Commodities less food	152.895	148.582	149.794	-2.0	0.8
Nondurables	209.410	204.134	205.991	-1.6	0.9
Nondurables less food	188.852	180.026	183.230	-3.0	1.8
Services less rent of shelter(1)	345.369	349.313	353.409	2.3	1.2
Services less medical care services	297.989	305.090	313.836	5.3	2.9
Energy	218.945	198.429	210.410	-3.9	6.0
All items less energy	250.870	254.398	258.442	3.0	1.6
All items less food and energy	255.632	260.086	264.916	3.6	1.9

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.