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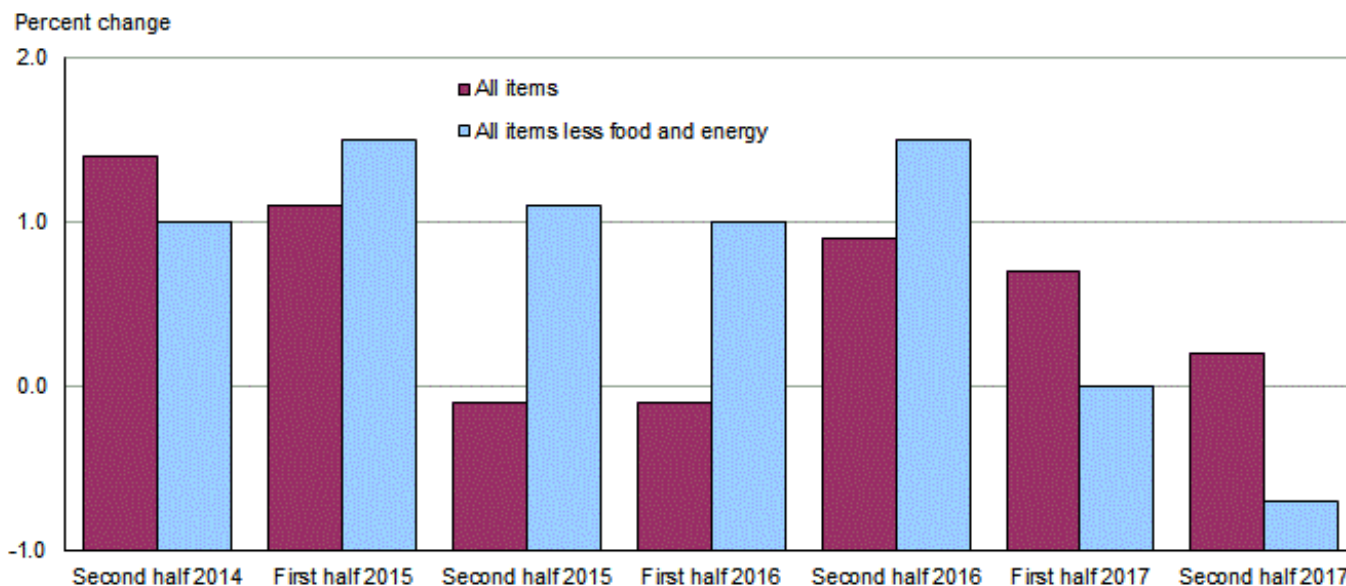
Consumer Price Index, Anchorage – Second Half 2017

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

Prices in the Anchorage Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.2 percent in the second half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted this latest six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline, medical care, and apparel. (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 0.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 5.4 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Anchorage, second half 2014–second half 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices decreased 0.6 percent in the second half of 2017. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home decreased 1.4 percent, but prices for food away from home increased 0.6 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices inched down 0.1 percent. Prices for food at home decreased 0.8 percent since a year ago, but prices for food away from home moved up 0.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 5.4 percent since the first half of 2017. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (7.2 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 9.1 percent, and prices for electricity increased 0.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 12.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (16.8 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service moved up 11.2 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 6.8 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.1 percent in the latest six-month period. Lower prices for education and communication (-2.2 percent) and shelter (-0.6 percent) were partially offset by higher prices for apparel (3.3 percent) and medical care (1.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy declined 0.7 percent. Components contributing to the decrease included education and communication (-4.8 percent) and shelter (-1.3 percent). Partly offsetting the decreases were price advances in medical care (1.7 percent) and apparel (1.6 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual
First Half	1.3	2.5	2.1	2.7	0.4	1.9	0.1	1.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.7
Second Half	0.7	2.0	1.4	3.5	1.0	1.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.2

The February 2018 Consumer Price Index for the Anchorage area is scheduled to be released March 13, 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index will change to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in February, 2018. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

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 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
Expenditure category					
All items.....	218.660	218.616	219.131	0.2	0.2
All items (1967=100).....	583.635	583.517	584.891	-	-
Food and beverages.....	208.183	209.188	207.988	-0.1	-0.6
Food.....	213.553	214.481	213.258	-0.1	-0.6
Food at home.....	209.617	210.977	208.003	-0.8	-1.4
Food away from home.....	218.136	218.448	219.708	0.7	0.6
Alcoholic beverages.....	153.657	155.367	154.411	0.5	-0.6
Housing.....	203.505	203.427	203.228	-0.1	-0.1
Shelter.....	206.548	205.134	203.949	-1.3	-0.6
Rent of primary residence.....	201.915	200.300	200.753	-0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	208.873	206.284	204.637	-2.0	-0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1).....	208.873	206.284	204.637	-2.0	-0.8
Fuels and utilities.....	303.873	315.618	326.748	7.5	3.5
Household energy.....	316.332	330.329	343.697	8.7	4.0
Energy services.....	352.161	368.028	383.079	8.8	4.1
Electricity.....	300.074	319.964	320.567	6.8	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service.....	425.662	433.649	473.312	11.2	9.1
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.502	129.758	129.283	0.6	-0.4
Apparel.....	163.859	161.230	166.554	1.6	3.3
Transportation.....	208.146	210.427	213.390	2.5	1.4
Private transportation.....	212.469	223.073	224.501	5.7	0.6
Motor fuel.....	201.509	219.453	235.305	16.8	7.2
Gasoline (all types).....	202.191	220.277	236.198	16.8	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(2).....	195.790	213.509	229.061	17.0	7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(2)(3).....	192.336	209.310	224.106	16.5	7.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(2).....	200.829	217.860	232.955	16.0	6.9
Medical care.....	534.701	533.511	543.827	1.7	1.9
Recreation(4).....	119.503	120.039	119.860	0.3	-0.1
Education and communication(4).....	118.767	115.579	113.073	-4.8	-2.2
Other goods and services.....	336.779	333.862	336.426	-0.1	0.8
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	218.660	218.616	219.131	0.2	0.2
Commodities.....	176.195	178.962	179.790	2.0	0.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	159.196	162.815	164.639	3.4	1.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	200.521	204.450	212.978	6.2	4.2
Durables.....	124.251	127.512	124.619	0.3	-2.3
Services.....	255.076	252.716	252.975	-0.8	0.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care.....	207.224	207.215	207.429	0.1	0.1
All items less shelter.....	222.403	223.144	224.624	1.0	0.7
Commodities less food.....	159.330	162.872	164.576	3.3	1.0
Nondurables.....	205.259	207.612	210.887	2.7	1.6
Nondurables less food.....	197.403	201.139	208.773	5.8	3.8
Services less rent of shelter(1).....	333.188	329.238	332.218	-0.3	0.9
Services less medical care services.....	237.225	235.151	235.384	-0.8	0.1
Energy.....	252.275	268.219	282.766	12.1	5.4
All items less energy.....	217.100	216.086	215.751	-0.6	-0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
All items less food and energy	218.031	216.688	216.502	-0.7	-0.1

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.