



For Release: Friday, September 16, 2016

16-1879-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic

Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

ERRATA

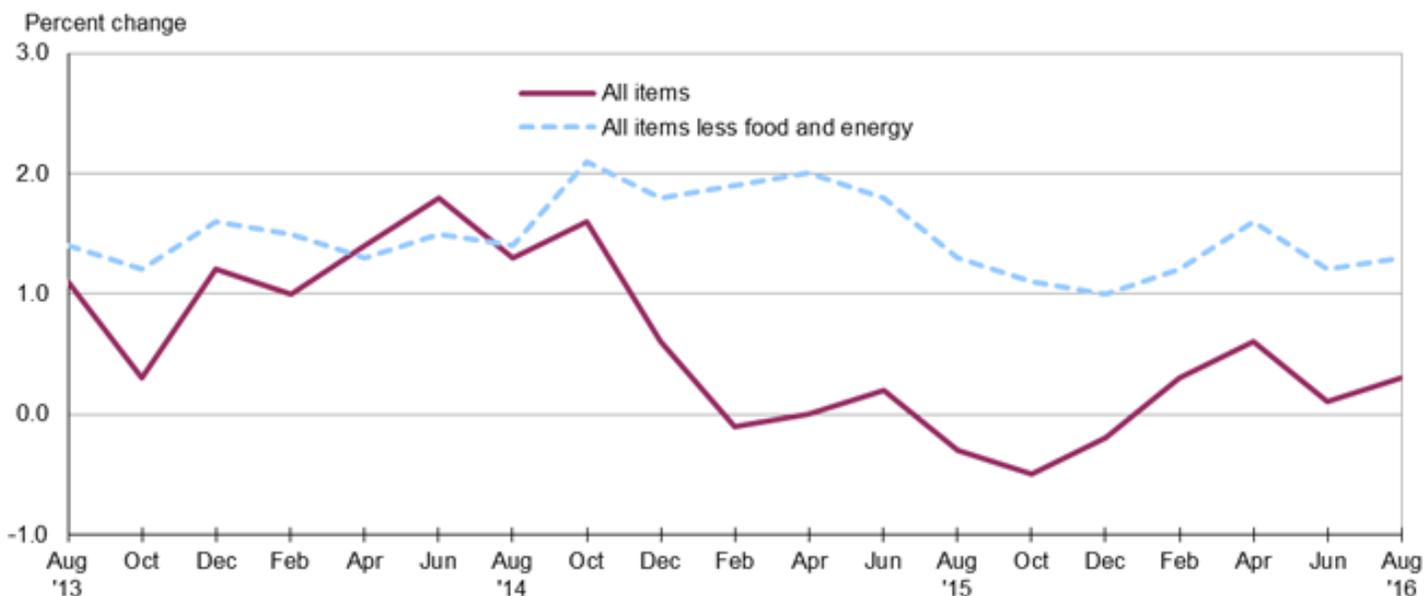
Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm, and the corrected data are available in the CPI database (www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm).

Consumer Price Index, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City – August 2016 Area prices down 0.2 percent since June and up 0.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City decreased 0.2 percent over the last two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the recent decrease reflected lower prices for energy (-3.5 percent). The food index edged up 0.2 percent since June, while the all items less food and energy index was unchanged. (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 CPI-U increased 0.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) A 1.3-percent increase in the all items less food and energy index was partially offset by an 8.4-percent drop in the energy index since August 2015. Food prices also decreased over the year, down 0.4 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Philadelphia, August 2013–August 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

After increasing 0.2 percent from April to June, the food index again edged up 0.2 percent over the last two months. Prices for food away from home increased 0.4 percent, and those for food at home inched up 0.1 percent since June.

The food index decreased 0.4 percent over the year. Prices for food at home declined 2.0 percent, while those for food away from home increased 2.0 percent since last August.

Energy

The energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, decreased 3.5 percent since June. This was due mostly to lower prices for gasoline, down 8.2 percent over the last two months. Prices for electricity also decreased since June, down 0.3 percent, while those for utility (piped) gas service increased, up 0.1 percent.

Energy prices fell 8.4 percent since August 2015, due largely to a 15.2-percent drop in gasoline prices. Electricity and utility (piped) gas service prices were also lower over the year, down 1.6 and 4.7 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged from June to August. Higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent), among others, were offset by several price declines including decreases in household furnishings and operations prices (-3.3 percent) and recreation prices (-0.9 percent).

Since August 2015, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.3 percent. Over-the-year price increases for shelter (1.3 percent) and medical care (4.2 percent) contributed to the rise. Lower prices for recreation (-1.8 percent), among others, helped to moderate the increase in the all items less food and energy index since last August.

Table A. Philadelphia CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	2-month	12-month								
February	0.7	2.2	0.7	1.8	0.5	1.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.3
April	0.8	2.0	0.1	1.1	0.5	1.4	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.6
June	-0.2	1.3	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.1
August	0.9	1.4	0.5	1.1	0.0	1.3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.3
October	0.4	2.2	-0.4	0.3	-0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.5		
December	-0.9	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.8	0.6	-0.6	-0.2		

The Consumer Price Index for October 2016 is scheduled to be released Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 8:30 am (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City is published bi-monthly. 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 approximately 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/pdf/homch17.pdf.

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 **Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

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 and percent changes for selected periods, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
All items		245.980		245.367	0.3	-0.2	
All items (1967 = 100)		710.623		708.852			
Food and beverages		231.574		232.117	-0.2	0.2	
Food		231.356		231.905	-0.4	0.2	
Food at home		239.034	240.893	239.374	-2.0	0.1	-0.6
Food away from home		215.596		216.406	2.0	0.4	
Alcoholic beverages		231.172		231.635	2.0	0.2	
Housing		251.724		251.788	0.7	0.0	
Shelter		311.558	311.803	312.794	1.3	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence (1)		290.258	290.691	291.502	1.1	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences (1) (2) (3)		320.517	320.823	321.601	1.3	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) (3)		320.517	320.823	321.601	1.3	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities		200.748		200.691	-2.3	0.0	
Household energy		167.357	167.940	166.710	-3.3	-0.4	-0.7
Gas (piped) and electricity (1)		180.599	181.460	180.239	-2.4	-0.2	-0.7
Electricity (1)		192.870	194.042	192.226	-1.6	-0.3	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service (1)		147.568	147.807	147.754	-4.7	0.1	0.0
Household furnishings and operations		116.677		112.772	-1.0	-3.3	
Apparel		108.985		109.611	2.3	0.6	
Transportation		203.654		198.639	-3.0	-2.5	
Private transportation		200.824		196.881	-3.2	-2.0	
Motor fuel		206.859	195.179	190.007	-15.1	-8.1	-2.6
Gasoline (all types)		204.082	192.503	187.347	-15.2	-8.2	-2.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4)		201.027	189.286	183.829	-15.9	-8.6	-2.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5)		211.069	200.393	196.458	-11.9	-6.9	-2.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4)		208.826	198.804	195.666	-11.7	-6.3	-1.6
Medical care		511.229		512.543	4.2	0.3	
Recreation (6)		122.821		121.703	-1.8	-0.9	
Education and communication (6)		133.014		133.611	0.2	0.4	
Other goods and services		514.410		523.008	2.9	1.7	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		176.061		174.320	-1.5	-1.0	
Commodities less food and beverages		145.264		142.720	-2.6	-1.8	
Nondurables less food and beverages		180.844		177.841	-2.7	-1.7	
Durables		105.290		103.305	-2.1	-1.9	
Services		317.053		317.452	1.3	0.1	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		224.753		223.435	-0.2	-0.6	
All items less medical care		234.807		234.105	0.0	-0.3	
Commodities less food		148.322		145.859	-2.4	-1.7	
Nondurables		207.150		205.720	-1.3	-0.7	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
Nondurables less food.....		183.787		180.996	-2.3	-1.5	
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾		330.012		329.475	1.3	-0.2	
Services less medical care services.....		302.579		302.947	1.2	0.1	
Energy		181.727	177.991	175.369	-8.4	-3.5	-1.5
All items less energy		254.922		254.931	1.1	0.0	
All items less food and energy		261.529		261.448	1.3	0.0	

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) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.
 - (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.