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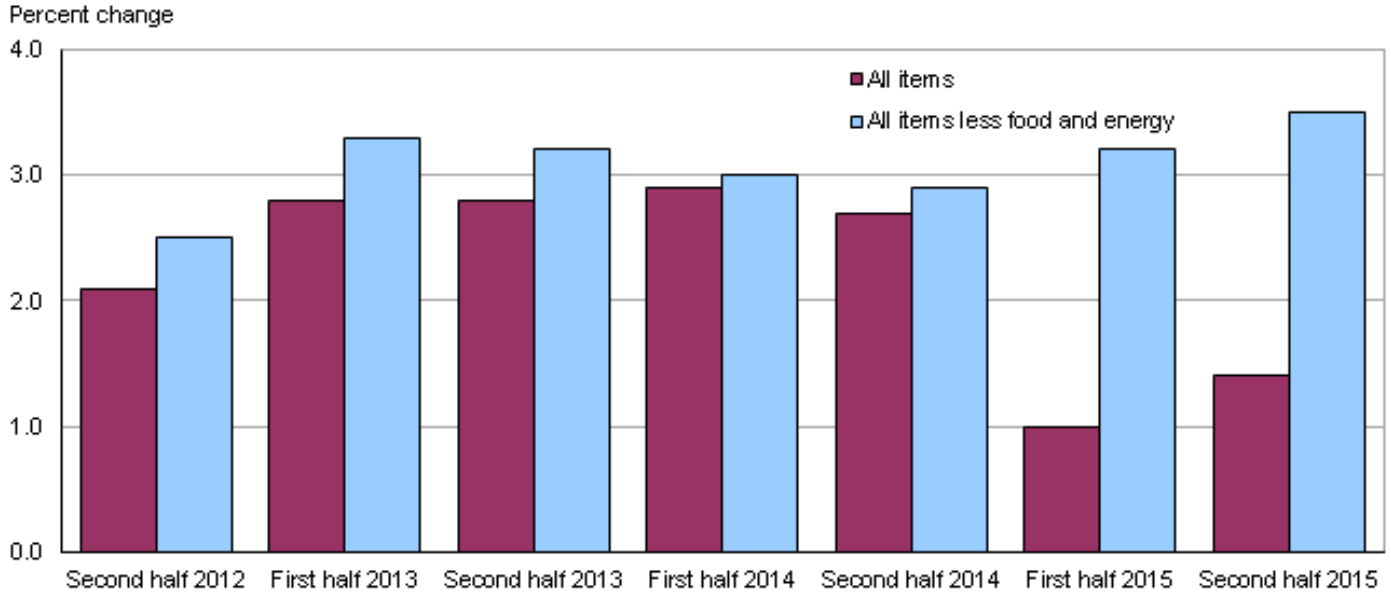
Consumer Price Index, Denver-Boulder-Greeley – Second Half 2015

Prices increased 1.4 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area increased 1.4 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher costs for shelter (5.8 percent) were largely responsible for the overall increase. Costs for energy fell 19.0 percent, food prices were unchanged, and the all items less food and energy index advanced 3.5 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were unchanged from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, compared to a 3.3-percent gain in the same period one year ago. Prices for food at home declined 1.4 percent while costs for food away from home rose 1.2 percent over the year. Comparatively, these indexes rose 3.5 and 3.8 percent, respectively, from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, decreased 19.0 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, following an increase of 0.3 percent in the same period one year ago. Falling prices for motor fuel (-26.0 percent), all of which occurred in the first half of the period, were largely responsible for the decline in the energy component. Lower prices for utility (piped) gas service (-18.9 percent) and electricity (-2.9 percent) also contributed to the decrease. During the same period one year ago, motor fuel costs declined 3.1 percent, while the indexes for utility (piped) gas service and electricity rose 5.8 and 3.8 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.5 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015. Shelter costs had the greatest upward impact with an increase of 5.8 percent after rising 5.1 percent in the same period one year ago. Other expenditure categories that registered higher prices over the year included medical care (4.2 percent) and recreation (5.0 percent).

The Denver CPI-U stood at 241.895 for the second half of 2015. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $241.90 in the second half of 2015. Because metropolitan area CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the area indexes.

CPI-W

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area for the second half of 2015 was 231.675. The CPI-W increased 1.1 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015.

The Consumer Price Index for the First Half of 2016 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 areas; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, and Weld Counties in Colorado.

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 Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (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	238.664	238.086	241.895	1.4	1.6
All items (1967=100)	795.845	793.916	806.620		
Food and beverages	223.174	223.736	223.370	0.1	-0.2
Food	226.578	227.437	226.652	0.0	-0.3
Food at home	225.387	225.198	222.298	-1.4	-1.3
Food away from home	229.736	230.357	232.402	1.2	0.9
Alcoholic beverages	195.977	193.601	197.387	0.7	2.0
Housing	223.700	227.027	232.114	3.8	2.2
Shelter	250.116	256.699	264.699	5.8	3.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	256.586	263.978	275.147	7.2	4.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	242.477	249.324	257.646	6.3	3.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	242.477	249.324	257.646	6.3	3.3
Fuels and utilities	233.732	224.182	221.903	-5.1	-1.0
Household energy	177.010	163.302	160.921	-9.1	-1.5
Energy services [1]	175.496	161.987	160.042	-8.8	-1.2
Electricity [1]	172.524	165.588	167.545	-2.9	1.2
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	182.430	156.912	147.891	-18.9	-5.7
Household furnishings and operations	118.731	116.980	114.043	-3.9	-2.5
Apparel	103.888	101.779	104.577	0.7	2.7
Transportation	260.907	239.740	242.150	-7.2	1.0
Private transportation	259.152	234.482	236.896	-8.6	1.0
Motor fuel	268.803	191.159	198.994	-26.0	4.1
Gasoline (all types)	266.547	189.438	197.606	-25.9	4.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	262.312	185.042	192.417	-26.6	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	252.546	184.452	193.115	-23.5	4.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	271.542	200.148	212.432	-21.8	6.1
Medical Care	511.545	523.475	532.965	4.2	1.8
Recreation [5]	147.098	150.109	154.526	5.0	2.9
Education and communication [5]	126.711	125.479	126.824	0.1	1.1
Other goods and services	347.705	353.874	355.056	2.1	0.3
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	238.664	238.086	241.895	1.4	1.6
Commodities	174.699	168.205	168.810	-3.4	0.4
Commodities less food & beverages	149.448	139.787	140.834	-5.8	0.7
Nondurables less food & beverages	185.233	166.570	169.035	-8.7	1.5
Durables	113.476	112.378	112.089	-1.2	-0.3
Services	294.263	298.921	305.548	3.8	2.2
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	226.015	224.936	228.494	1.1	1.6
All items less shelter	233.805	229.694	231.356	-1.0	0.7
Commodities less food	151.230	141.870	143.028	-5.4	0.8
Nondurables	204.780	195.445	196.532	-4.0	0.6
Nondurables less food	185.387	168.089	170.651	-7.9	1.5
Services less rent of shelter [2]	357.814	359.477	363.403	1.6	1.1
Services less medical care services	276.026	280.183	286.669	3.9	2.3
Energy	217.229	173.338	175.870	-19.0	1.5
All items less energy	241.721	245.099	249.043	3.0	1.6

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 Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

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
All items less food and energy	245.099	248.932	253.722	3.5	1.9

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) Index is on a November 1982=100 base.
(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (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	229.076	228.062	231.675	1.1	1.6
All items (1967=100)	762.485	759.109	771.137		
Food and beverages	225.152	225.857	225.373	0.1	-0.2
Food	228.731	229.713	228.795	0.0	-0.4
Food at home	226.858	226.747	224.207	-1.2	-1.1
Food away from home	233.504	234.344	236.213	1.2	0.8
Alcoholic beverages	200.360	198.053	202.338	1.0	2.2
Housing	217.263	220.659	226.204	4.1	2.5
Shelter	238.947	245.452	253.582	6.1	3.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	256.586	263.978	275.147	7.2	4.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	226.363	232.756	240.525	6.3	3.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	226.363	232.756	240.525	6.3	3.3
Fuels and utilities	228.105	218.298	216.056	-5.3	-1.0
Household energy	175.661	162.113	159.779	-9.0	-1.4
Energy services [1]	175.737	162.273	160.363	-8.7	-1.2
Electricity [1]	172.523	165.588	167.545	-2.9	1.2
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	182.432	156.913	147.892	-18.9	-5.7
Household furnishings and operations	123.579	122.311	120.165	-2.8	-1.8
Apparel	102.960	103.568	105.843	2.8	2.2
Transportation	258.194	237.593	240.115	-7.0	1.1
Private transportation	255.904	233.395	235.939	-7.8	1.1
Motor fuel	268.753	191.164	198.859	-26.0	4.0
Gasoline (all types)	266.544	189.435	197.604	-25.9	4.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	262.317	185.046	192.420	-26.6	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	252.546	184.452	193.115	-23.5	4.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	271.580	200.176	212.461	-21.8	6.1
Medical Care	515.270	528.232	538.375	4.5	1.9
Recreation [5]	128.808	131.437	133.531	3.7	1.6
Education and communication [5]	121.620	120.030	120.542	-0.9	0.4
Other goods and services	350.249	355.562	358.240	2.3	0.8
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	229.076	228.062	231.675	1.1	1.6
Commodities	179.077	171.958	172.768	-3.5	0.5
Commodities less food & beverages	152.822	142.398	143.769	-5.9	1.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	195.966	173.559	176.936	-9.7	1.9
Durables	109.471	109.328	109.004	-0.4	-0.3
Services	280.205	284.683	290.921	3.8	2.2
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	218.126	216.676	220.056	0.9	1.6
All items less shelter	227.131	222.286	223.574	-1.6	0.6
Commodities less food	154.258	144.142	145.615	-5.6	1.0
Nondurables	214.047	202.865	204.355	-4.5	0.7
Nondurables less food	195.513	174.686	178.118	-8.9	2.0
Services less rent of shelter [2]	323.152	324.030	326.272	1.0	0.7
Services less medical care services	262.713	266.698	272.741	3.8	2.3
Energy	223.922	178.354	180.985	-19.2	1.5
All items less energy	230.414	234.073	237.802	3.2	1.6

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

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
All items less food and energy	231.297	235.439	240.002	3.8	1.9

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) Index is on a November 1984=100 base.
(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.