

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
Chicago, Ill.

For release: 7:30 a.m. CT, Friday, February 17, 2012

12-277-CHI

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 • BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/ro5
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MILWAUKEE-RACINE, WIS., CMSA – 2011 ANNUAL AVERAGES

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Milwaukee-Racine area rose 3.5 percent from 2010 to 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the energy index rose 15.5 percent in 2011, primarily due to increases in gasoline prices. Food prices were up 3.8 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent. Within the all items less food and energy category, the indexes for medical care, education and communication, and shelter were higher over the year.

Food

Average annual food prices rose 3.8 percent in 2011 after rising 1.0 percent in 2010. Between the two components of the food index, prices for food at home and food away from home both rose 3.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 15.5 percent in 2011 after falling 11.6 percent in 2010. Within the energy category, the indexes for gasoline (27.1 percent) and electricity (5.3 percent) rose while the index for utility (piped) gas service fell 3.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

Over the year, the annual average index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for medical care (4.9 percent), shelter (1.2 percent), and education and communication (2.3 percent).

The first half 2012 Consumer Price Index for Milwaukee-Racine is scheduled to be released on August 15, 2012, at 7:30 a.m. (CT).

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 25,000 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 Milwaukee-Racine, Wis., consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Chicago Information Office at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for annual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Annual average indexes		Percent change to 2011 from 2010
	2010	2011	
Expenditure category			
All items	209.646	216.934	3.5
All items (1967=100)	647.514	670.024	-
Food and beverages	221.758	229.570	3.5
Food	224.073	232.574	3.8
Food at home	222.317	230.566	3.7
Food away from home	226.861	235.227	3.7
Alcoholic beverages	203.625	204.640	.5
Housing	200.544	203.583	1.5
Shelter	239.301	242.154	1.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	220.891	223.245	1.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	255.070	258.143	1.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	255.070	258.143	1.2
Fuels and utilities	198.963	206.477	3.8
Household energy	172.278	177.092	2.8
Energy services ¹	177.374	181.553	2.4
Electricity ¹	189.711	199.810	5.3
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	146.603	141.032	-3.8
Household furnishings and operations	105.607	106.888	1.2
Apparel	122.059	125.004	2.4
Transportation	188.143	206.334	9.7
Private transportation	180.559	198.168	9.8
Motor fuel	244.595	310.965	27.1
Gasoline (all types)	242.567	308.242	27.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	247.005	314.482	27.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	253.602	321.556	26.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	210.185	263.917	25.6
Medical care	394.715	413.953	4.9
Recreation ⁵	110.738	111.427	.6
Education and communication ⁵	137.145	140.356	2.3
Other goods and services	368.375	373.710	1.4
Commodity and service group			
All items	209.646	216.934	3.5
Commodities	169.526	178.687	5.4
Commodities less food and beverages	144.934	154.240	6.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	189.532	208.845	10.2
Durables	104.730	105.487	.7
Services	247.953	253.330	2.2
Special aggregate indexes			
All items less medical care	201.475	208.236	3.4
All items less shelter	200.665	209.658	4.5
Commodities less food	147.138	156.212	6.2
Nondurables	206.949	221.502	7.0
Nondurables less food	190.080	208.170	9.5
Services less rent of shelter ²	269.304	277.961	3.2
Services less medical care services	235.631	240.003	1.9
Energy	205.813	237.775	15.5
All items less energy	212.052	216.824	2.3
All items less food and energy	210.824	215.025	2.0

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.

- Data not available.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2011 from—	
	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	2nd half 2011	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011
Expenditure category					
All items	210.564	215.646	218.222	3.6	1.2
All items (1967=100)	650.348	666.047	674.001	-	-
Food and beverages	222.008	226.301	232.838	4.9	2.9
Food	224.350	229.086	236.062	5.2	3.0
Food at home	221.326	226.558	234.574	6.0	3.5
Food away from home	228.670	232.785	237.669	3.9	2.1
Alcoholic beverages	203.609	203.567	205.712	1.0	1.1
Housing	200.580	202.969	204.197	1.8	.6
Shelter	239.761	241.367	242.942	1.3	.7
Rent of primary residence ¹	221.078	222.223	224.266	1.4	.9
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	255.661	257.320	258.967	1.3	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	255.661	257.320	258.967	1.3	.6
Fuels and utilities	197.603	205.493	207.460	5.0	1.0
Household energy	170.503	176.453	177.730	4.2	.7
Energy services ¹	175.560	180.935	182.172	3.8	.7
Electricity ¹	191.753	197.785	201.835	5.3	2.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	138.719	142.707	139.356	.5	-2.3
Household furnishings and operations	105.031	106.460	107.316	2.2	.8
Apparel	124.005	121.487	128.521	3.6	5.8
Transportation	188.711	206.082	206.586	9.5	.2
Private transportation	180.945	197.892	198.444	9.7	.3
Motor fuel	245.893	314.588	307.341	25.0	-2.3
Gasoline (all types)	243.701	312.225	304.259	24.8	-2.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	248.212	318.600	310.365	25.0	-2.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	254.421	325.584	317.527	24.8	-2.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	211.136	267.093	260.740	23.5	-2.4
Medical care	403.203	411.447	416.459	3.3	1.2
Recreation ⁵	111.019	111.397	111.456	.4	.1
Education and communication ⁵	139.409	138.875	141.837	1.7	2.1
Other goods and services	369.036	371.265	376.155	1.9	1.3
Commodity and service group					
All items	210.564	215.646	218.222	3.6	1.2
Commodities	169.891	177.050	180.324	6.1	1.8
Commodities less food and beverages	145.325	153.240	155.241	6.8	1.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	190.550	206.933	210.757	10.6	1.8
Durables	104.590	105.273	105.701	1.1	.4
Services	249.413	252.396	254.265	1.9	.7
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	202.059	207.003	209.471	3.7	1.2
All items less shelter	201.736	208.115	211.202	4.7	1.5
Commodities less food	147.518	155.205	157.218	6.6	1.3
Nondurables	207.645	218.961	224.043	7.9	2.3
Nondurables less food	191.029	206.313	210.027	9.9	1.8
Services less rent of shelter ²	272.007	276.625	279.297	2.7	1.0
Services less medical care services	236.534	239.107	240.900	1.8	.7
Energy	205.374	239.007	236.543	15.2	-1.0
All items less energy	213.159	215.300	218.349	2.4	1.4
All items less food and energy	212.065	213.805	216.245	2.0	1.1

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