NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 15-1595-KAN

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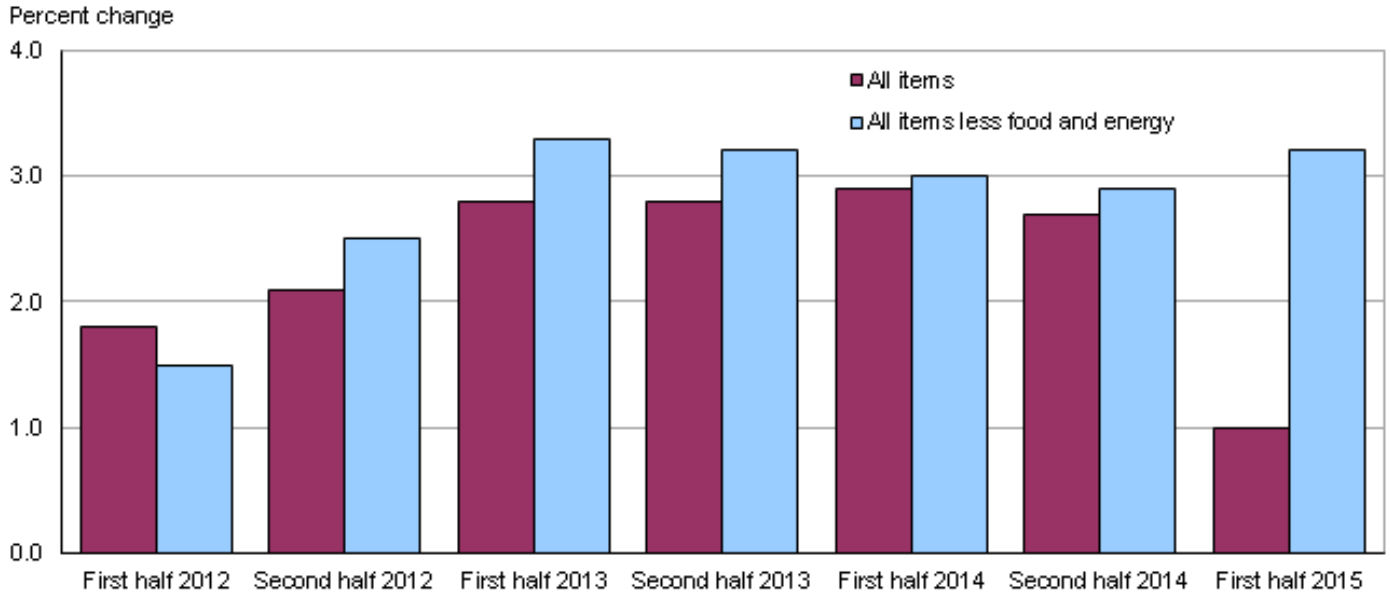
Consumer Price Index, Denver-Boulder-Greeley – First Half 2015

Prices increased 1.0 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area increased 1.0 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher costs for shelter (5.5 percent) were largely responsible for the overall increase. Costs for energy fell 21.7 percent, food prices rose 1.5 percent, and the all items less food and energy index advanced 3.2 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 1.5 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, compared to a 2.0-percent gain in the same period one year ago. Costs for food away from home led the advance, rising 2.9 percent over the year. Higher prices for food at home (0.9 percent) also contributed to the increase. Comparatively, from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014, costs for food away from home rose 1.3 percent and prices for food at home were up 2.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, decreased 21.7 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015, following a gain of 3.9 percent in the same period one year ago. Falling prices for motor fuel (-32.4 percent), most of which occurred in the most recent six months of the period, were largely responsible for the decline in the energy component. The over-the-year drop in the motor fuel index was the largest recorded since 2009. Lower prices for utility (piped) gas service (-10.8 percent) and electricity (-1.8 percent) also contributed to the decrease. During the same period one year ago, motor fuel costs declined 0.6 percent, while the indexes for utility (piped) gas service and electricity rose 18.1 and 3.7 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.2 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015. Shelter costs had the greatest upward impact with an increase of 5.5 percent after rising 5.0 percent in the same period one year ago.

The Denver CPI-U stood at 238.086 for the first half of 2015. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $238.09 in the first 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 first half of 2015 was 228.062. The CPI-W increased 0.8 percent from the first half of 2014 to the first half of 2015.

The Consumer Price Index for the Second Half of 2015 is scheduled to be released in January 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 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items	235.736	238.664	238.086	1.0	-0.2
All items (1967=100)	786.082	795.845	793.916		
Food and beverages	220.829	223.174	223.736	1.3	0.3
Food	224.114	226.578	227.437	1.5	0.4
Food at home	223.094	225.387	225.198	0.9	-0.1
Food away from home	223.785	229.736	230.357	2.9	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	194.746	195.977	193.601	-0.6	-1.2
Housing	217.608	223.700	227.027	4.3	1.5
Shelter	243.324	250.116	256.699	5.5	2.6
Rent of primary residence [1]	248.529	256.586	263.978	6.2	2.9
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	235.063	242.477	249.324	6.1	2.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	235.063	242.477	249.324	6.1	2.8
Fuels and utilities	226.215	233.732	224.182	-0.9	-4.1
Household energy	172.396	177.010	163.302	-5.3	-7.7
Energy services [1]	170.662	175.496	161.987	-5.1	-7.7
Electricity [1]	168.603	172.524	165.588	-1.8	-4.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	175.904	182.430	156.912	-10.8	-14.0
Household furnishings and operations	118.479	118.731	116.980	-1.3	-1.5
Apparel	103.545	103.888	101.779	-1.7	-2.0
Transportation	268.342	260.907	239.740	-10.7	-8.1
Private transportation	265.961	259.152	234.482	-11.8	-9.5
Motor fuel	282.665	268.803	191.159	-32.4	-28.9
Gasoline (all types)	280.378	266.547	189.438	-32.4	-28.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	276.526	262.312	185.042	-33.1	-29.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	264.464	252.546	184.452	-30.3	-27.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	283.202	271.542	200.148	-29.3	-26.3
Medical Care	504.300	511.545	523.475	3.8	2.3
Recreation [5]	147.096	147.098	150.109	2.0	2.0
Education and communication [5]	123.986	126.711	125.479	1.2	-1.0
Other goods and services	350.399	347.705	353.874	1.0	1.8
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	235.736	238.664	238.086	1.0	-0.2
Commodities	175.779	174.699	168.205	-4.3	-3.7
Commodities less food & beverages	152.114	149.448	139.787	-8.1	-6.5
Nondurables less food & beverages	188.627	185.233	166.570	-11.7	-10.1
Durables	115.440	113.476	112.378	-2.7	-1.0
Services	287.809	294.263	298.921	3.9	1.6
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	223.253	226.015	224.936	0.8	-0.5
All items less shelter	233.158	233.805	229.694	-1.5	-1.8
Commodities less food	153.735	151.230	141.870	-7.7	-6.2
Nondurables	205.351	204.780	195.445	-4.8	-4.6
Nondurables less food	188.393	185.387	168.089	-10.8	-9.3
Services less rent of shelter [2]	353.477	357.814	359.477	1.7	0.5
Services less medical care services	269.693	276.026	280.183	3.9	1.5
Energy	221.507	217.229	173.338	-21.7	-20.2
All items less energy	238.136	241.721	245.099	2.9	1.4

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 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
All items less food and energy	241.306	245.099	248.932	3.2	1.6

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 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items	226.254	229.076	228.062	0.8	-0.4
All items (1967=100)	753.093	762.485	759.109		
Food and beverages	222.822	225.152	225.857	1.4	0.3
Food	226.240	228.731	229.713	1.5	0.4
Food at home	224.133	226.858	226.747	1.2	0.0
Food away from home	227.764	233.504	234.344	2.9	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	199.651	200.360	198.053	-0.8	-1.2
Housing	210.990	217.263	220.659	4.6	1.6
Shelter	232.116	238.947	245.452	5.7	2.7
Rent of primary residence [1]	248.529	256.586	263.978	6.2	2.9
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	219.442	226.363	232.756	6.1	2.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	219.442	226.363	232.756	6.1	2.8
Fuels and utilities	220.671	228.105	218.298	-1.1	-4.3
Household energy	171.097	175.661	162.113	-5.3	-7.7
Energy services [1]	170.906	175.737	162.273	-5.1	-7.7
Electricity [1]	168.602	172.523	165.588	-1.8	-4.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	175.905	182.432	156.913	-10.8	-14.0
Household furnishings and operations	123.327	123.579	122.311	-0.8	-1.0
Apparel	102.510	102.960	103.568	1.0	0.6
Transportation	264.671	258.194	237.593	-10.2	-8.0
Private transportation	261.855	255.904	233.395	-10.9	-8.8
Motor fuel	282.584	268.753	191.164	-32.4	-28.9
Gasoline (all types)	280.374	266.544	189.435	-32.4	-28.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	276.531	262.317	185.046	-33.1	-29.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	264.464	252.546	184.452	-30.3	-27.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	283.241	271.580	200.176	-29.3	-26.3
Medical Care	507.133	515.270	528.232	4.2	2.5
Recreation [5]	127.978	128.808	131.437	2.7	2.0
Education and communication [5]	119.526	121.620	120.030	0.4	-1.3
Other goods and services	351.605	350.249	355.562	1.1	1.5
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	226.254	229.076	228.062	0.8	-0.4
Commodities	180.299	179.077	171.958	-4.6	-4.0
Commodities less food & beverages	155.627	152.822	142.398	-8.5	-6.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	200.312	195.966	173.559	-13.4	-11.4
Durables	110.908	109.471	109.328	-1.4	-0.1
Services	273.669	280.205	284.683	4.0	1.6
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	215.473	218.126	216.676	0.6	-0.7
All items less shelter	226.624	227.131	222.286	-1.9	-2.1
Commodities less food	156.930	154.258	144.142	-8.1	-6.6
Nondurables	215.073	214.047	202.865	-5.7	-5.2
Nondurables less food	199.457	195.513	174.686	-12.4	-10.7
Services less rent of shelter [2]	318.846	323.152	324.030	1.6	0.3
Services less medical care services	256.375	262.713	266.698	4.0	1.5
Energy	228.462	223.922	178.354	-21.9	-20.3
All items less energy	226.824	230.414	234.073	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 1st half 2015 from-	
	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014
All items less food and energy	227.502	231.297	235.439	3.5	1.8

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.