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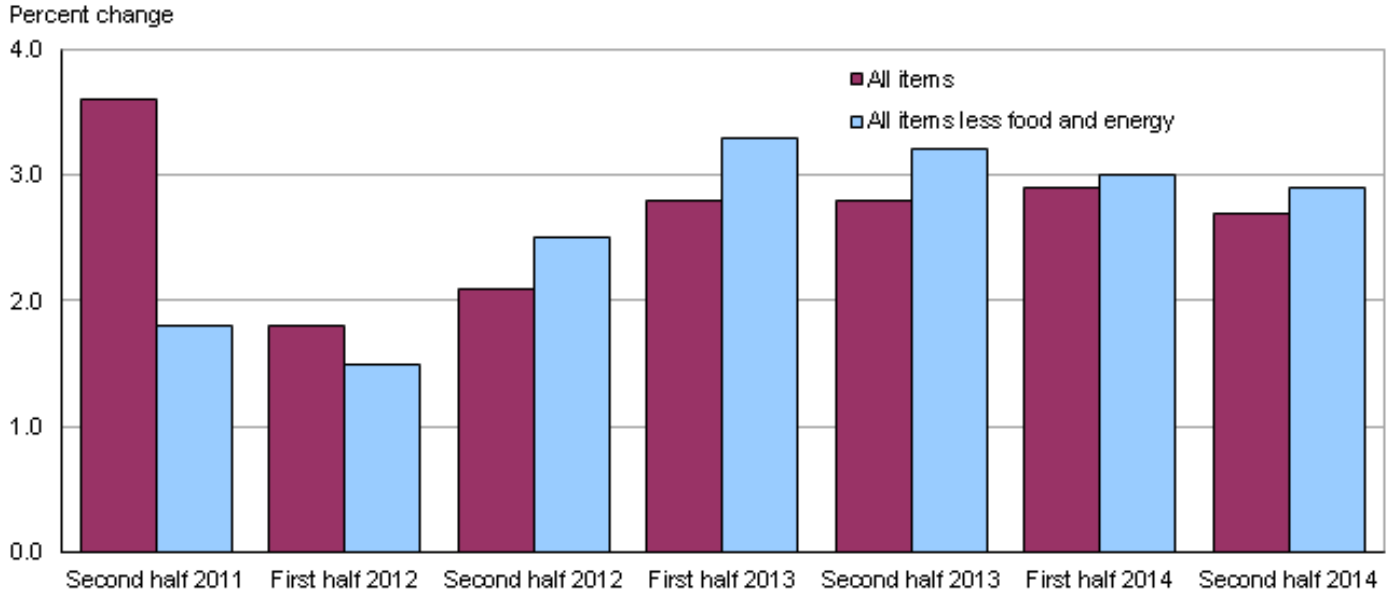
Consumer Price Index, Denver-Boulder-Greeley – Second Half 2014

Prices increased 2.7 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area increased 2.7 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher costs for shelter (5.1 percent) were largely responsible for the overall increase. Costs for energy were up 0.3 percent, food prices rose 3.3 percent, and the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.9 percent.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Denver, second half 2011–second half 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 3.3 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, compared to a 0.2-percent gain in the same period one year ago. The index for food at home increased 3.5 percent and costs for food away from home were 3.8 percent higher over the year. Comparatively, from the second half of 2012 to the second half of 2013, prices for food at home were down 0.2 percent while costs for food away from home rose 0.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, increased 0.3 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, following a gain of 3.2 percent in the same period one year ago. Higher prices for electricity (3.8 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (5.8 percent) contributed to the increase. During the same period one year ago, these indexes rose 8.5 and 25.8 percent, respectively. The rise in the energy index was moderated by lower motor fuel costs (-3.1 percent) from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, with all of the decline in motor fuel prices occurring in the most recent six months of the period.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.9 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014. Shelter costs had the greatest upward impact with an increase of 5.1 percent after rising 4.9 percent in the same period one year ago. In contrast, the index for apparel (-4.1 percent) was among the expenditure categories registering lower prices over the year.

The Denver CPI-U stood at 238.664 for the second half of 2014. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 during the 1982-84 base period cost $238.66 during the second half of 2014. 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 2014 was 229.076. The CPI-W increased 2.7 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014.

The Consumer Price Index for the First Half of 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

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 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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/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 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items	232.439	235.736	238.664	2.7	1.2
All items (1967=100)	775.087	786.082	795.845		
Food and beverages	216.455	220.829	223.174	3.1	1.1
Food	219.356	224.114	226.578	3.3	1.1
Food at home	217.845	223.094	225.387	3.5	1.0
Food away from home	221.361	223.785	229.736	3.8	2.7
Alcoholic beverages	194.005	194.746	195.977	1.0	0.6
Housing	213.466	217.608	223.700	4.8	2.8
Shelter	238.079	243.324	250.116	5.1	2.8
Rent of primary residence [1]	242.387	248.529	256.586	5.9	3.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	230.636	235.063	242.477	5.1	3.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	230.636	235.063	242.477	5.1	3.2
Fuels and utilities	220.722	226.215	233.732	5.9	3.3
Household energy	168.007	172.396	177.010	5.4	2.7
Energy services [1]	166.512	170.662	175.496	5.4	2.8
Electricity [1]	166.210	168.603	172.524	3.8	2.3
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	172.447	175.904	182.430	5.8	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	119.128	118.479	118.731	-0.3	0.2
Apparel	108.297	103.545	103.888	-4.1	0.3
Transportation	263.350	268.342	260.907	-0.9	-2.8
Private transportation	262.446	265.961	259.152	-1.3	-2.6
Motor fuel	277.422	282.665	268.803	-3.1	-4.9
Gasoline (all types)	275.403	280.378	266.547	-3.2	-4.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	271.824	276.526	262.312	-3.5	-5.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	260.108	264.464	252.546	-2.9	-4.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	276.691	283.202	271.542	-1.9	-4.1
Medical Care	497.149		511.545	2.9	
Recreation [5]	146.665	147.096	147.098	0.3	0.0
Education and communication [5]	123.221	123.986	126.711	2.8	2.2
Other goods and services	352.556	350.399	347.705	-1.4	-0.8
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	232.439	235.736	238.664	2.7	1.2
Commodities	174.924	175.779	174.699	-0.1	-0.6
Commodities less food & beverages	153.049	152.114	149.448	-2.4	-1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	189.611	188.627	185.233	-2.3	-1.8
Durables	115.978	115.440	113.476	-2.2	-1.7
Services	282.210	287.809	294.263	4.3	2.2
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	220.120	223.253	226.015	2.7	1.2
All items less shelter	230.789	233.158	233.805	1.3	0.3
Commodities less food	154.624	153.735	151.230	-2.2	-1.6
Nondurables	203.664	205.351	204.780	0.5	-0.3
Nondurables less food	189.326	188.393	185.387	-2.1	-1.6
Services less rent of shelter [2]	347.270	353.477	357.814	3.0	1.2
Services less medical care services	264.247	269.693	276.026	4.5	2.3
Energy	216.577	221.507	217.229	0.3	-1.9
All items less energy	234.813	238.136	241.721	2.9	1.5

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 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
All items less food and energy	238.204	241.306	245.099	2.9	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 2nd half 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items	223.133	226.254	229.076	2.7	1.2
All items (1967=100)	742.707	753.093	762.485		
Food and beverages	218.240	222.822	225.152	3.2	1.0
Food	221.290	226.240	228.731	3.4	1.1
Food at home	218.682	224.133	226.858	3.7	1.2
Food away from home	225.252	227.764	233.504	3.7	2.5
Alcoholic beverages	198.860	199.651	200.360	0.8	0.4
Housing	206.962	210.990	217.263	5.0	3.0
Shelter	227.199	232.116	238.947	5.2	2.9
Rent of primary residence [1]	242.387	248.529	256.586	5.9	3.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	215.310	219.442	226.363	5.1	3.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	215.310	219.442	226.363	5.1	3.2
Fuels and utilities	215.597	220.671	228.105	5.8	3.4
Household energy	166.963	171.097	175.661	5.2	2.7
Energy services [1]	166.987	170.906	175.737	5.2	2.8
Electricity [1]	166.209	168.602	172.523	3.8	2.3
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	172.448	175.905	182.432	5.8	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	123.705	123.327	123.579	-0.1	0.2
Apparel	107.237	102.510	102.960	-4.0	0.4
Transportation	260.314	264.671	258.194	-0.8	-2.4
Private transportation	258.314	261.855	255.904	-0.9	-2.3
Motor fuel	277.538	282.584	268.753	-3.2	-4.9
Gasoline (all types)	275.399	280.374	266.544	-3.2	-4.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	271.829	276.531	262.317	-3.5	-5.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	260.108	264.464	252.546	-2.9	-4.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	276.729	283.241	271.580	-1.9	-4.1
Medical Care	499.289		515.270	3.2	
Recreation [5]	127.833	127.978	128.808	0.8	0.6
Education and communication [5]	118.818	119.526	121.620	2.4	1.8
Other goods and services	353.417	351.605	350.249	-0.9	-0.4
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	223.133	226.254	229.076	2.7	1.2
Commodities	179.941	180.299	179.077	-0.5	-0.7
Commodities less food & beverages	156.642	155.627	152.822	-2.4	-1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	201.763	200.312	195.966	-2.9	-2.2
Durables	111.324	110.908	109.471	-1.7	-1.3
Services	268.099	273.669	280.205	4.5	2.4
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	212.494	215.473	218.126	2.7	1.2
All items less shelter	224.379	226.624	227.131	1.2	0.2
Commodities less food	157.918	156.930	154.258	-2.3	-1.7
Nondurables	214.337	215.073	214.047	-0.1	-0.5
Nondurables less food	200.871	199.457	195.513	-2.7	-2.0
Services less rent of shelter [2]	312.471	318.846	323.152	3.4	1.4
Services less medical care services	251.025	256.375	262.713	4.7	2.5
Energy	224.381	228.462	223.922	-0.2	-2.0
All items less energy	223.458	226.824	230.414	3.1	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 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
All items less food and energy	224.444	227.502	231.297	3.1	1.7

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.