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

For Release: Friday, January 12, 2018 **18-92-KAN**

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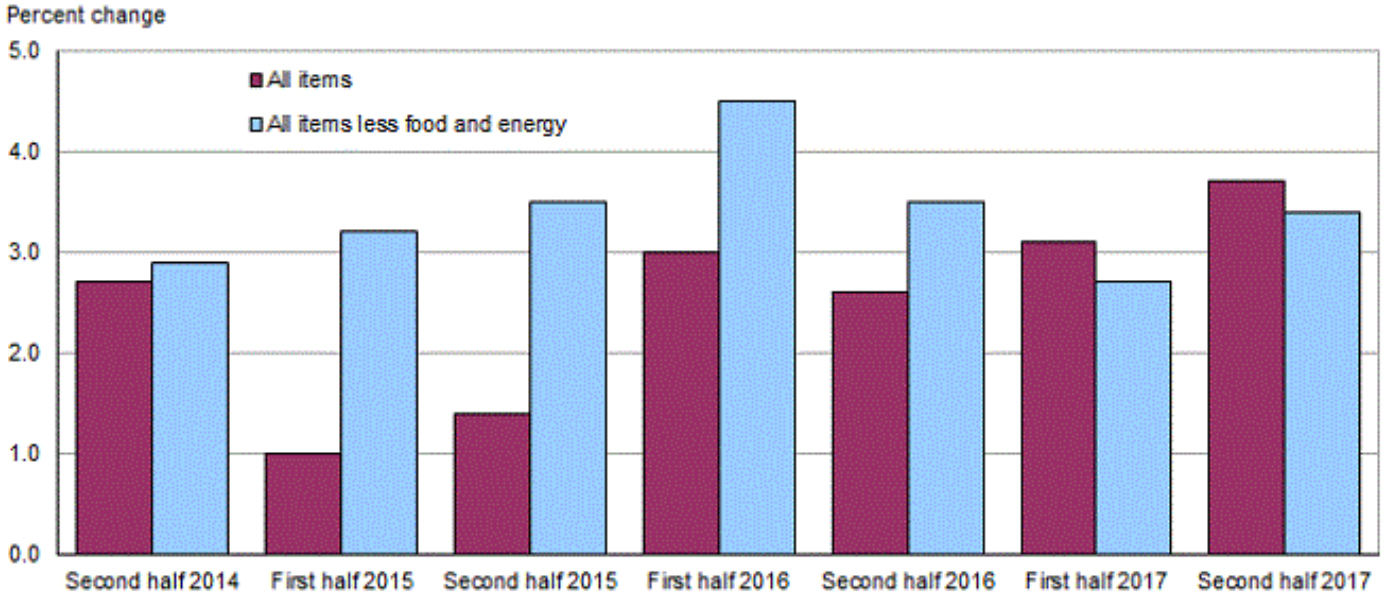
Consumer Price Index, Denver-Boulder-Greeley – Second Half 2017

Prices increased 3.7 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area increased 3.7 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher costs for shelter (4.9 percent) had the largest upward impact on the overall index. The energy index was up 8.9 percent and food prices rose 3.4 percent. The all items less food and energy index, which includes shelter, advanced 3.4 percent over the year.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Denver, second half 2014–second half 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 3.4 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017 after registering little change (0.2 percent) in the same period one year ago. Prices for food at home were up 2.2 percent while costs for food away from home advanced 5.0 percent over the year. Comparatively, from the second half of 2015 to the second half of 2016, prices for food at home were virtually unchanged (-0.1 percent) while costs for food away from home increased a moderate 0.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, rose 8.9 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017. Energy costs declined 4.6 percent in the same period one year ago. Higher prices for gasoline (13.8 percent) led the increase in the energy component. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service increased 4.1 and 3.1 percent, respectively. During the same period one year ago, gasoline prices fell 9.6 percent, while electricity prices increased 1.8 percent and utility (piped) gas service costs were 1.0 percent higher.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.4 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017. Shelter costs had the greatest upward impact on the index with a gain of 4.9 percent after rising 7.0 percent in the same period one year ago. Other expenditure categories that registered higher prices over the year included medical care (6.8 percent) and recreation (3.8 percent).

The Denver CPI-U stood at 257.230 for the second half of 2017. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $257.23 in the second half of 2017. 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 2017 was 246.186. The CPI-W increased 3.7 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017.

The Consumer Price Index for January 2018 is scheduled to be released on February 14, 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index will change to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in January, 2018. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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: (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 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
Expenditure category					
All Items	248.095	252.760	257.230	3.7	1.8
All items (1967=100)	827.292	842.848	857.753		
Food and beverages	224.091	229.067	231.163	3.2	0.9
Food	227.203	232.618	234.971	3.4	1.0
Food at home	222.169	224.394	227.024	2.2	1.2
Food away from home	233.853	243.499	245.484	5.0	0.8
Alcoholic beverages	200.065	200.028	199.128	-0.5	-0.4
Housing	246.318	252.354	257.327	4.5	2.0
Shelter	283.244	290.950	297.087	4.9	2.1
Rent of primary residence(1)	293.807	300.287	306.287	4.2	2.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	277.153	284.845	290.877	5.0	2.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	277.153	284.845	290.877	5.0	2.1
Fuels and utilities	231.863	233.595	238.278	2.8	2.0
Household energy	163.152	164.590	169.540	3.9	3.0
Energy services(1)	162.349	163.451	168.482	3.8	3.1
Electricity(1)	170.539	170.473	177.603	4.1	4.2
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	149.344	152.455	153.921	3.1	1.0
Household furnishings and operations	113.084	114.643	115.135	1.8	0.4
Apparel	103.013	99.003	106.530	3.4	7.6
Transportation	238.249	244.718	247.168	3.7	1.0
Private transportation	231.242	235.850	241.576	4.5	2.4
Motor fuel	179.912	190.957	204.741	13.8	7.2
Gasoline (all types)	178.652	189.597	203.293	13.8	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	172.298	183.156	196.759	14.2	7.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	180.051	190.075	201.848	12.1	6.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	201.278	211.872	225.255	11.9	6.3
Medical Care	539.710	542.666	576.296	6.8	6.2
Recreation(5)	154.141	160.585	160.047	3.8	-0.3
Education and communication(5)	125.722	123.867	120.902	-3.8	-2.4
Other goods and services	356.968	352.192	353.044	-1.1	0.2
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	248.095	252.760	257.230	3.7	1.8
Commodities	166.325	167.500	169.711	2.0	1.3
Commodities less food & beverages	136.861	136.333	138.540	1.2	1.6
Nondurables less food & beverages	161.990	161.347	167.815	3.6	4.0
Durables	111.049	110.637	108.859	-2.0	-1.6
Services	319.957	328.053	334.656	4.6	2.0
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	234.609	239.291	242.619	3.4	1.4
All items less shelter	231.424	234.612	238.277	3.0	1.6
Commodities less food	139.336	138.822	140.936	1.1	1.5
Nondurables	193.339	195.388	199.818	3.4	2.3
Nondurables less food	164.477	163.874	169.869	3.3	3.7
Services less rent of shelter(2)	369.432	377.617	384.284	4.0	1.8
Services less medical care services	301.501	309.703	314.163	4.2	1.4
Energy	167.858	173.818	182.854	8.9	5.2
All items less energy	256.663	261.265	265.408	3.4	1.6
All items less food and energy	262.726	267.170	271.672	3.4	1.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
Expenditure category					
All Items	237.407	241.689	246.186	3.7	1.9
All items (1967=100)	790.215	804.468	819.439		
Food and beverages	225.556	230.377	232.958	3.3	1.1
Food	228.762	233.867	236.653	3.4	1.2
Food at home	223.348	225.113	228.491	2.3	1.5
Food away from home	237.641	248.617	250.352	5.3	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	205.924	206.146	205.194	-0.4	-0.5
Housing	240.059	245.846	250.673	4.4	2.0
Shelter	271.405	278.579	284.454	4.8	2.1
Rent of primary residence(1)	293.807	300.287	306.287	4.2	2.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	258.736	265.916	271.548	5.0	2.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	258.736	265.916	271.548	5.0	2.1
Fuels and utilities	225.042	226.611	231.424	2.8	2.1
Household energy	162.018	163.289	168.248	3.8	3.0
Energy services(1)	162.624	163.735	168.765	3.8	3.1
Electricity(1)	170.538	170.472	177.602	4.1	4.2
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	149.345	152.456	153.922	3.1	1.0
Household furnishings and operations	119.143	121.626	121.843	2.3	0.2
Apparel	103.834	100.087	107.276	3.3	7.2
Transportation	239.213	246.935	253.496	6.0	2.7
Private transportation	234.169	240.824	249.781	6.7	3.7
Motor fuel	180.080	191.123	204.925	13.8	7.2
Gasoline (all types)	178.650	189.594	203.291	13.8	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	172.301	183.159	196.762	14.2	7.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	180.051	190.075	201.848	12.1	6.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	201.305	211.901	225.286	11.9	6.3
Medical Care	543.516	545.846	576.162	6.0	5.6
Recreation(5)	132.771	136.663	135.353	1.9	-1.0
Education and communication(5)	119.256	116.086	112.715	-5.5	-2.9
Other goods and services	358.079	350.222	351.255	-1.9	0.3
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	237.407	241.689	246.186	3.7	1.9
Commodities	169.457	171.022	173.358	2.3	1.4
Commodities less food & beverages	139.155	138.955	141.161	1.4	1.6
Nondurables less food & beverages	167.649	167.376	173.559	3.5	3.7
Durables	107.777	107.655	105.724	-1.9	-1.8
Services	305.776	313.010	319.809	4.6	2.2
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	225.708	229.971	233.734	3.6	1.6
All items less shelter	223.606	226.634	230.547	3.1	1.7
Commodities less food	141.314	141.124	143.256	1.4	1.5
Nondurables	199.554	201.928	206.303	3.4	2.2
Nondurables less food	169.946	169.697	175.547	3.3	3.4
Services less rent of shelter(2)	334.608	341.166	348.564	4.2	2.2
Services less medical care services	287.703	294.871	300.174	4.3	1.8
Energy	172.686	178.778	188.141	8.9	5.2
All items less energy	245.188	249.352	253.467	3.4	1.7

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 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
All items less food and energy	249.118	253.047	257.489	3.4	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.