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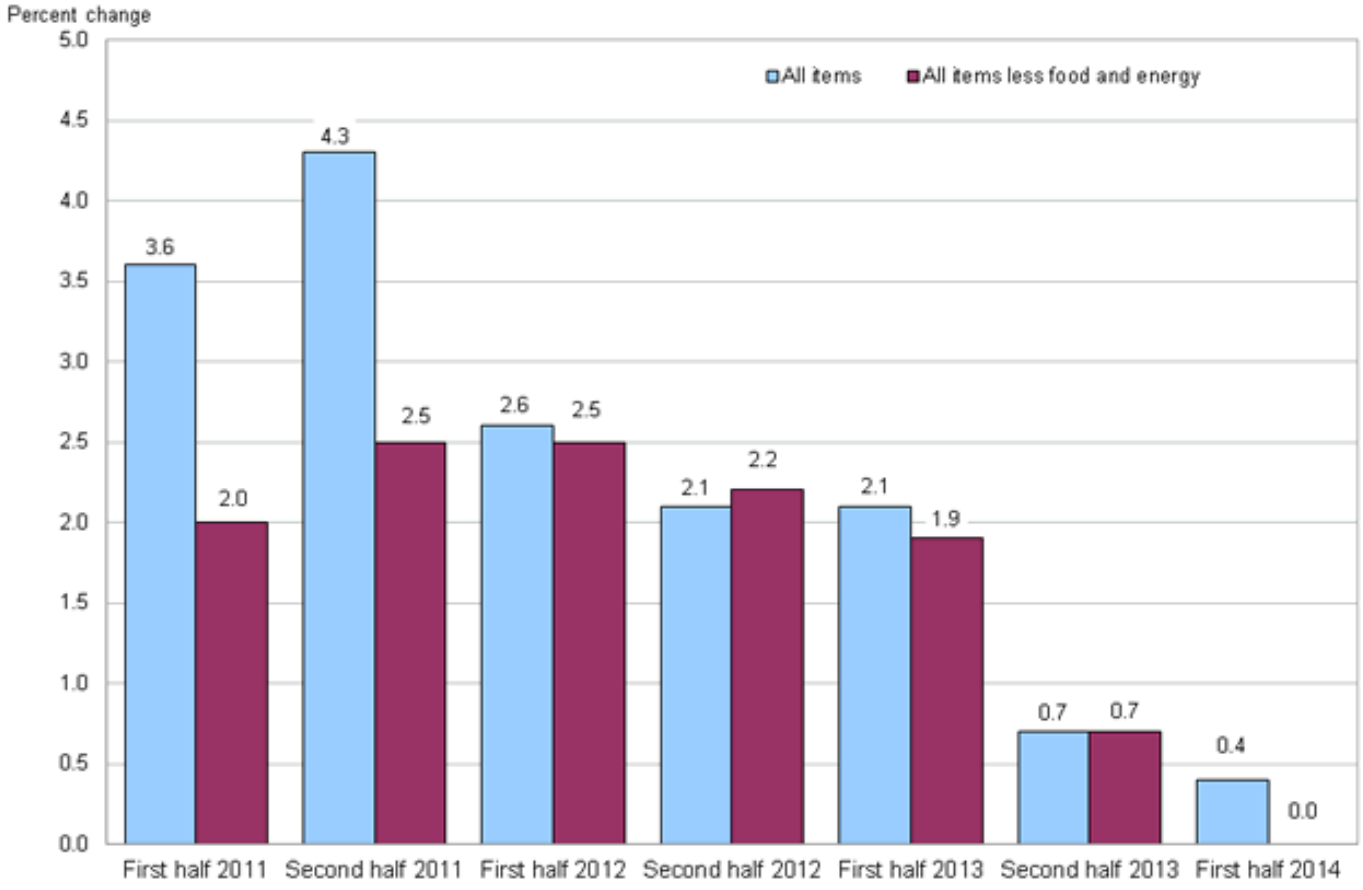
Consumer Price Index, Kansas City – First Half 2014

Prices increased 0.4 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., metropolitan area increased 0.4 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014, the smallest annual gain since semi-annual publication began in 1984, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the indexes for food and shelter had the largest upward impact on the all items index. Costs for energy were up 0.9 percent, food prices increased 2.3 percent, and the all items less food and energy index was unchanged over the year.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in consumer price indexes, Kansas City, first half 2011–first half 2014



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 2.3 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014. Within the food index, costs for food at home were up 2.6 percent and prices for food away from home increased 2.0 percent. These compared with gains of 1.0 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively, in the 12-month period that ended in the first half of 2013.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, advanced 0.9 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014, with all of the increase occurring in the most recent six months of the period. Higher prices for utility (piped) gas service (11.7 percent) were largely responsible for the increase in the energy component. Costs for electricity rose a modest 0.2 percent over the year and contributed to the increase. Moderating the advance in energy costs, the motor fuel index declined 1.9 percent over the period.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014, following a gain of 1.9 percent in the same period one year ago. Shelter costs advanced 0.9 percent. Prices for recreation and other goods and services rose 0.7 and 0.4 percent, respectively, over the year. In contrast, the index for education and communication declined 2.3 percent, medical care costs decreased 1.2 percent, and prices for apparel were down 1.4 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014.

The Kansas City CPI-U stood at 222.842 for the first half of 2014. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in 1982-84 cost $222.84 in the first 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 metropolitan area indexes.

CPI-W

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., metropolitan area for the first half of 2014 was 214.905. The CPI-W increased 0.3 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014.

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 approximately 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 Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., area covered in this release includes Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas; and Cass, Clay, Clinton, Jackson, Lafayette, Platte, and Ray Counties in Missouri.

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 Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
Expenditure category					
All Items	222.057	221.168	222.842	0.4	0.8
All items (1967=100)	659.367	656.728	661.697		
Food and beverages	244.571	245.839	249.749	2.1	1.6
Food	249.422	251.032	255.052	2.3	1.6
Food at home	239.135	239.889	245.461	2.6	2.3
Food away from home	266.221	267.350	271.526	2.0	1.6
Alcoholic beverages	188.819	186.036	188.608	-0.1	1.4
Housing	205.208	205.725	207.730	1.2	1.0
Shelter	227.398	227.290	229.512	0.9	1.0
Rent of primary residence [1]	229.640	231.179	233.518	1.7	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	222.618	224.288	225.719	1.4	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	222.618	224.288	225.719	1.4	0.6
Fuels and utilities	223.325	227.862	232.356	4.0	2.0
Household energy	191.876	197.745	200.999	4.8	1.6
Energy services [1]	189.621	195.379	198.208	4.5	1.4
Electricity [1]	156.115	162.759	156.491	0.2	-3.9
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	195.372	197.406	218.245	11.7	10.6
Household furnishings and operations	124.390	124.209	124.098	-0.2	-0.1
Apparel	121.931	121.369	120.186	-1.4	-1.0
Transportation	214.678	209.137	212.086	-1.2	1.4
Private transportation	211.422	206.124	209.281	-1.0	1.5
Motor fuel	311.821	293.340	306.027	-1.9	4.3
Gasoline (all types)	312.590	293.351	305.006	-2.4	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	306.541	286.887	298.380	-2.7	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	378.478	356.776	370.843	-2.0	3.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	300.869	285.500	296.360	-1.5	3.8
Medical Care	340.966	338.640	336.849	-1.2	-0.5
Recreation [5]	129.408	130.811	130.336	0.7	-0.4
Education and communication [5]	130.783	128.337	127.780	-2.3	-0.4
Other goods and services	379.256	378.223	380.770	0.4	0.7
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	222.057	221.168	222.842	0.4	0.8
Commodities	192.599	189.752	190.720	-1.0	0.5
Commodities less food & beverages	166.885	162.513	162.366	-2.7	-0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	228.260	220.081	220.256	-3.5	0.1
Durables	110.190	108.921	108.145	-1.9	-0.7
Services	251.249	252.158	254.498	1.3	0.9
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	215.426	214.611	216.459	0.5	0.9
All items less shelter	221.862	220.654	222.129	0.1	0.7
Commodities less food	167.820	163.487	163.401	-2.6	-0.1
Nondurables	236.556	232.799	234.689	-0.8	0.8
Nondurables less food	226.135	218.289	218.537	-3.4	0.1
Services less rent of shelter [2]	288.945	290.439	292.831	1.3	0.8
Services less medical care services	239.624	240.130	242.062	1.0	0.8
Energy	248.236	243.102	250.577	0.9	3.1
All items less energy	220.641	220.334	221.493	0.4	0.5

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 Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
All items less food and energy	215.974	215.355	216.040	0.0	0.3

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 December 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 Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
Expenditure category					
All Items	214.173	213.175	214.905	0.3	0.8
All items (1967=100)	627.527	624.604	629.671		
Food and beverages	246.776	248.473	252.235	2.2	1.5
Food	250.800	252.789	256.689	2.3	1.5
Food at home	237.804	239.069	244.696	2.9	2.4
Food away from home	272.911	274.036	277.819	1.8	1.4
Alcoholic beverages	192.014	189.549	191.419	-0.3	1.0
Housing	195.805	197.025	198.978	1.6	1.0
Shelter	214.650	215.170	216.955	1.1	0.8
Rent of primary residence [1]	229.640	231.179	233.518	1.7	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	202.680	204.200	205.503	1.4	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	202.680	204.200	205.503	1.4	0.6
Fuels and utilities	223.164	227.794	232.043	4.0	1.9
Household energy	192.256	198.273	201.318	4.7	1.5
Energy services [1]	190.448	196.348	198.887	4.4	1.3
Electricity [1]	156.117	162.761	156.493	0.2	-3.9
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	195.372	197.405	218.244	11.7	10.6
Household furnishings and operations	111.529	112.698	112.691	1.0	0.0
Apparel	112.073	109.300	109.178	-2.6	-0.1
Transportation	202.828	197.614	201.722	-0.5	2.1
Private transportation	201.359	196.207	200.502	-0.4	2.2
Motor fuel	311.940	293.351	305.973	-1.9	4.3
Gasoline (all types)	312.583	293.344	304.999	-2.4	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	306.538	286.884	298.377	-2.7	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	378.478	356.776	370.843	-2.0	3.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	300.857	285.490	296.349	-1.5	3.8
Medical Care	348.446	346.416	344.466	-1.1	-0.6
Recreation [5]	128.812	130.190	129.064	0.2	-0.9
Education and communication [5]	121.794	117.928	117.148	-3.8	-0.7
Other goods and services	404.905	404.123	407.396	0.6	0.8
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	214.173	213.175	214.905	0.3	0.8
Commodities	189.781	186.705	188.214	-0.8	0.8
Commodities less food & beverages	163.125	158.594	159.601	-2.2	0.6
Nondurables less food & beverages	229.233	219.909	222.040	-3.1	1.0
Durables	111.537	110.447	109.080	-2.2	-1.2
Services	242.613	243.687	245.722	1.3	0.8
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	208.413	207.457	209.334	0.4	0.9
All items less shelter	215.174	213.569	215.275	0.0	0.8
Commodities less food	164.390	159.884	160.876	-2.1	0.6
Nondurables	238.730	234.269	236.928	-0.8	1.1
Nondurables less food	228.080	219.068	221.118	-3.1	0.9
Services less rent of shelter [2]	254.260	255.266	257.138	1.1	0.7
Services less medical care services	230.908	231.616	233.250	1.0	0.7
Energy	248.000	242.329	249.848	0.7	3.1
All items less energy	211.650	211.391	212.323	0.3	0.4

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 Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
All items less food and energy	203.788	203.185	203.598	-0.1	0.2

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 December 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.