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

For Release: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 **16-101-KAN**

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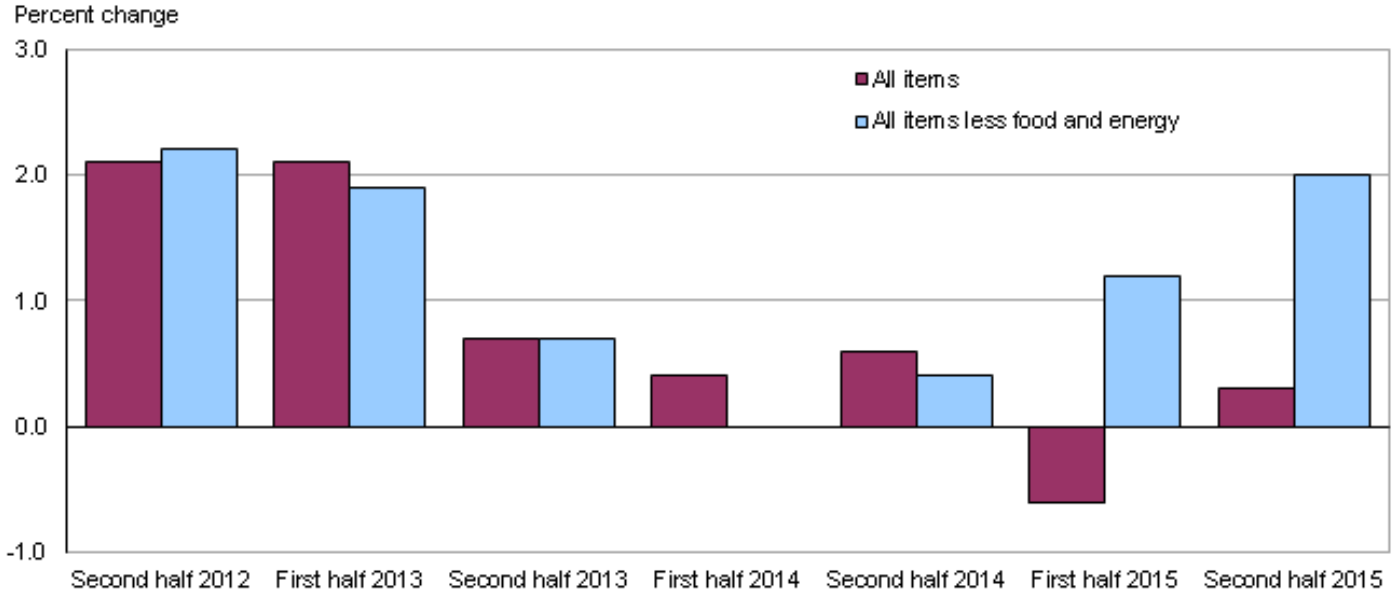
Consumer Price Index, Kansas City – Second Half 2015

Prices increased 0.3 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., metropolitan area increased 0.3 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher costs for shelter (2.8 percent) had the largest upward impact on the index. Energy costs decreased 14.3 percent, food prices rose 0.6 percent, and the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.0 percent over the year.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Kansas City, second half 2012–second half 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.6 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, following an increase of 3.9 percent in the same period one year ago. Within the food index, costs for food at home declined 0.2 percent while prices for food away from home rose 1.6 percent over the year. These compared with increases of 4.7 and 3.3 percent, respectively, in the 12-month period that ended in the second half of 2014.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 14.3 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015. Falling prices for motor fuel (-23.8 percent), most of which occurred in the first half of the period, were largely responsible for the decline in the energy index. Costs for utility (piped) gas service, down 14.8 percent over the year, also contributed to the decrease. In contrast, electricity prices rose 2.8 percent from the second half of 2014. During the same period one year ago, motor fuel costs declined 5.4 percent, prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 4.6 percent, and electricity costs were 2.8 percent lower.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, after registering a gain of 0.4 percent in the same period one year ago. Shelter costs advanced 2.8 percent and had the largest upward impact on the all items less food and energy index. Other expenditure categories that registered higher prices over the year included medical care (3.4 percent).

The Kansas City CPI-U stood at 223.051 for the second half of 2015. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $223.05 in the second 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 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 second half of 2015 was 213.868. The CPI-W decreased 0.2 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015.

The Consumer Price Index for the First Half of 2016 is scheduled to be released on July 15, 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 approximately 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 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 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
Expenditure category					
All Items	222.470	221.505	223.051	0.3	0.7
All items (1967=100)	660.592	657.726	662.319		
Food and beverages	255.318	255.432	256.995	0.7	0.6
Food	260.738	260.504	262.238	0.6	0.7
Food at home	251.246	249.404	250.644	-0.2	0.5
Food away from home	276.272	278.191	280.691	1.6	0.9
Alcoholic beverages	192.818	196.384	196.205	1.8	-0.1
Housing	208.829	211.173	212.652	1.8	0.7
Shelter	231.383	235.647	237.754	2.8	0.9
Rent of primary residence [1]	236.641	240.491	244.553	3.3	1.7
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	227.932	230.495	232.980	2.2	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	227.932	230.495	232.980	2.2	1.1
Fuels and utilities	232.619	227.333	228.211	-1.9	0.4
Household energy	197.587	191.597	190.042	-3.8	-0.8
Energy services [1]	195.305	189.440	187.788	-3.8	-0.9
Electricity [1]	158.233	158.766	162.729	2.8	2.5
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	206.438	188.958	175.896	-14.8	-6.9
Household furnishings and operations	122.360	123.576	123.274	0.7	-0.2
Apparel	116.323	116.529	113.271	-2.6	-2.8
Transportation	204.681	192.376	193.754	-5.3	0.7
Private transportation	202.169	189.793	190.784	-5.6	0.5
Motor fuel	277.639	211.974	211.472	-23.8	-0.2
Gasoline (all types)	276.570	211.172	210.870	-23.8	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	270.348	205.905	205.278	-24.1	-0.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	335.535	256.530	256.434	-23.6	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	270.634	211.210	215.168	-20.5	1.9
Medical Care	339.435	343.775	351.078	3.4	2.1
Recreation [5]	128.090	129.837	130.430	1.8	0.5
Education and communication [5]	127.697	125.422	126.657	-0.8	1.0
Other goods and services	383.306	385.861	390.107	1.8	1.1
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	222.470	221.505	223.051	0.3	0.7
Commodities	188.832	184.182	184.292	-2.4	0.1
Commodities less food & beverages	157.413	150.881	150.384	-4.5	-0.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	210.795	195.595	195.169	-7.4	-0.2
Durables	107.107	108.005	107.470	0.3	-0.5
Services	255.519	257.946	260.832	2.1	1.1
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	215.909	214.623	215.827	0.0	0.6
All items less shelter	220.812	217.807	219.148	-0.8	0.6
Commodities less food	158.785	152.621	152.136	-4.2	-0.3
Nondurables	232.345	224.367	224.884	-3.2	0.2
Nondurables less food	210.096	196.282	195.874	-6.8	-0.2
Services less rent of shelter [2]	292.769	293.262	297.152	1.5	1.3
Services less medical care services	243.052	245.292	247.680	1.9	1.0
Energy	236.031	203.470	202.359	-14.3	-0.5
All items less energy	222.504	224.567	226.388	1.7	0.8

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 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
All items less food and energy	216.269	218.718	220.554	2.0	0.8

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 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 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
Expenditure category					
All Items	214.311	212.284	213.868	-0.2	0.7
All items (1967=100)	627.932	621.993	626.633		
Food and beverages	258.074	258.157	259.831	0.7	0.6
Food	262.576	262.390	264.192	0.6	0.7
Food at home	250.526	248.861	250.242	-0.1	0.6
Food away from home	282.902	284.912	287.437	1.6	0.9
Alcoholic beverages	196.570	200.241	200.198	1.8	0.0
Housing	200.250	201.984	203.691	1.7	0.8
Shelter	219.005	222.574	224.932	2.7	1.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	236.641	240.491	244.553	3.3	1.7
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	207.518	209.851	212.114	2.2	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	207.518	209.851	212.114	2.2	1.1
Fuels and utilities	232.560	227.304	228.152	-1.9	0.4
Household energy	198.146	192.081	190.412	-3.9	-0.9
Energy services [1]	195.968	190.074	188.408	-3.9	-0.9
Electricity [1]	158.235	158.768	162.731	2.8	2.5
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	206.437	188.957	175.895	-14.8	-6.9
Household furnishings and operations	110.902	111.914	111.770	0.8	-0.1
Apparel	106.853	107.449	104.280	-2.4	-2.9
Transportation	193.153	178.193	179.155	-7.2	0.5
Private transportation	192.053	176.977	177.767	-7.4	0.4
Motor fuel	277.544	211.906	211.469	-23.8	-0.2
Gasoline (all types)	276.563	211.167	210.865	-23.8	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	270.345	205.903	205.276	-24.1	-0.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	335.535	256.530	256.434	-23.6	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	270.624	211.202	215.160	-20.5	1.9
Medical Care	347.206	351.120	358.431	3.2	2.1
Recreation [5]	126.438	128.190	128.708	1.8	0.4
Education and communication [5]	116.407	113.490	114.530	-1.6	0.9
Other goods and services	410.582	413.882	423.491	3.1	2.3
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	214.311	212.284	213.868	-0.2	0.7
Commodities	186.006	179.971	180.299	-3.1	0.2
Commodities less food & beverages	154.045	145.521	145.284	-5.7	-0.2
Nondurables less food & beverages	211.670	193.314	193.348	-8.7	0.0
Durables	107.937	108.674	108.145	0.2	-0.5
Services	246.680	248.500	251.338	1.9	1.1
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	208.575	206.251	207.560	-0.5	0.6
All items less shelter	213.615	209.390	210.680	-1.4	0.6
Commodities less food	155.612	147.414	147.182	-5.4	-0.2
Nondurables	234.074	224.218	225.016	-3.9	0.4
Nondurables less food	211.599	194.430	194.460	-8.1	0.0
Services less rent of shelter [2]	256.763	256.560	259.681	1.1	1.2
Services less medical care services	234.188	235.858	238.302	1.8	1.0
Energy	234.850	200.888	199.800	-14.9	-0.5
All items less energy	213.523	215.319	217.249	1.7	0.9

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 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
All items less food and energy	203.955	206.099	208.045	2.0	0.9

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.