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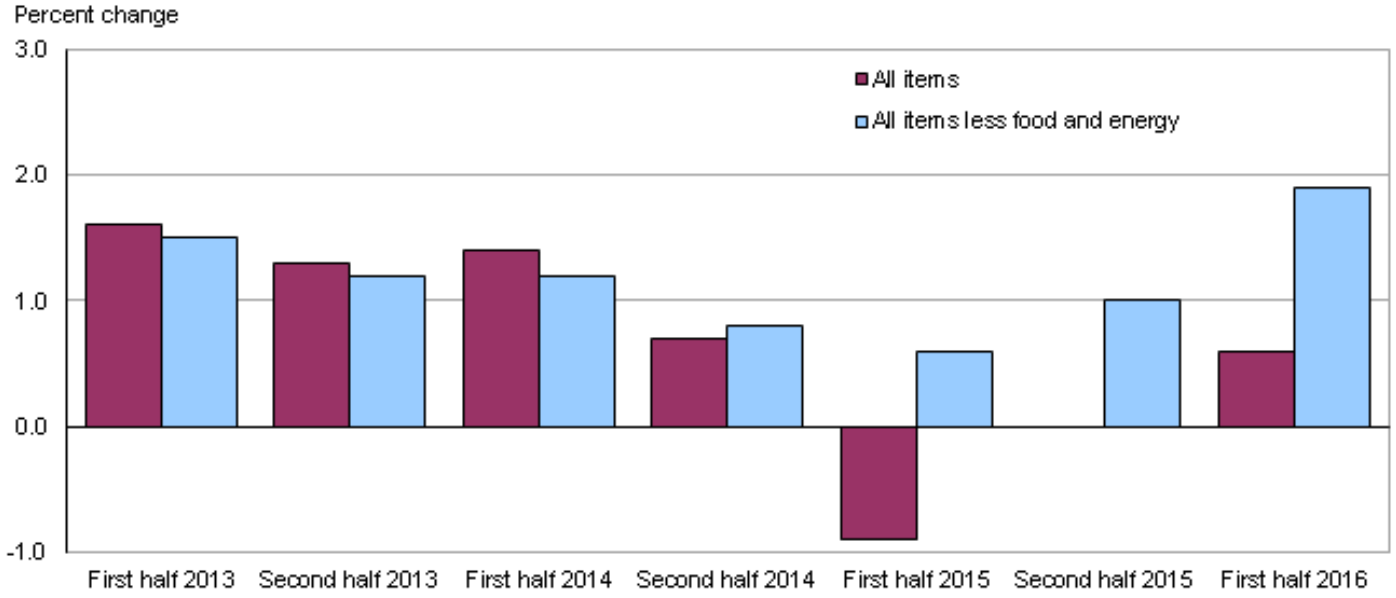
# Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – First Half 2016

## Prices increased 0.6 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area increased 0.6 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher shelter costs (3.2 percent) had the largest upward impact on the index, while lower motor fuel prices (-18.2 percent) had the greatest downward influence on the index. Overall, energy costs fell 11.3 percent, food prices were little changed (-0.1 percent), and the all items less food and energy index rose 1.9 percent over the year.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, St. Louis, first half 2013–first half 2016**




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices registered little movement (-0.1 percent) from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016. Costs for food away from home rose 1.8 percent, while prices for food at home declined 1.4 percent. During the same period one year ago, these indexes rose 3.9 and 0.3 percent, respectively.

**Energy**

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 11.3 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, after decreasing 16.1 percent in the same period one year ago. Falling prices for motor fuel (-18.2 percent) were largely responsible for the decline in the energy component. Lower costs for utility (piped) gas service (-11.1 percent) and electricity (-1.8 percent) also contributed to the decrease. During the same period one year ago, motor fuel costs fell 29.7 percent, prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 1.6 percent, and electricity costs rose 5.2 percent.

**All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, following an increase of 0.6 percent in the same period one year ago. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs were shelter (3.2 percent) and medical care (3.3 percent). In contrast, the indexes for household furnishings and operations (-1.9 percent) and education and communication (-0.4 percent) were among the components that registered lower prices over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 219.792 for the first half of 2016. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $219.79 in the first half of 2016. 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 St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area for the first half of 2016 was 217.752. The CPI-W increased 0.2 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016.

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**The Consumer Price Index for the Second Half of 2016 is scheduled to be released in January 2017.**

## 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 St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., area covered in this release includes Clinton, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties in Illinois; and Crawford (part), Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren Counties and St. Louis City in Missouri.

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 St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to 1st half 2016 from- | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 | 1st half 2016 | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 |
| **Expenditure category** | | | | | |
| All Items | 218.543 | 220.100 | 219.792 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| All items (1967=100) | 649.109 | 653.732 | 652.820 | | |
| Food and beverages | 246.906 | 248.553 | 246.670 | -0.1 | -0.8 |
| Food | 246.281 | 248.015 | 246.030 | -0.1 | -0.8 |
| Food at home | 230.911 | 232.222 | 227.704 | -1.4 | -1.9 |
| Food away from home | 271.495 | 273.942 | 276.302 | 1.8 | 0.9 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 228.032 | 228.278 | 226.522 | -0.7 | -0.8 |
| Housing | 208.155 | 212.305 | 211.700 | 1.7 | -0.3 |
| Shelter | 240.275 | 243.064 | 247.917 | 3.2 | 2.0 |
| Rent of primary residence [1] | 218.026 | 222.150 | 224.959 | 3.2 | 1.3 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2] | 248.729 | 252.310 | 256.958 | 3.3 | 1.8 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2] | 248.729 | 252.310 | 256.958 | 3.3 | 1.8 |
| Fuels and utilities | 207.325 | 224.359 | 200.024 | -3.5 | -10.8 |
| Household energy | 187.706 | 206.411 | 178.321 | -5.0 | -13.6 |
| Energy services [1] | 191.633 | 211.955 | 182.239 | -4.9 | -14.0 |
| Electricity [1] | 196.229 | 232.743 | 192.747 | -1.8 | -17.2 |
| Utility (piped) gas service [1] | 155.966 | 147.123 | 138.714 | -11.1 | -5.7 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 122.936 | 122.984 | 120.658 | -1.9 | -1.9 |
| Apparel | 152.607 | 151.959 | 152.559 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Transportation | 186.351 | 184.691 | 181.623 | -2.5 | -1.7 |
| Private transportation | 185.532 | 183.828 | 180.755 | -2.6 | -1.7 |
| Motor fuel | 228.602 | 212.959 | 186.966 | -18.2 | -12.2 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 224.821 | 209.495 | 184.067 | -18.1 | -12.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular [3] | 217.906 | 202.077 | 176.594 | -19.0 | -12.6 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4] | 260.957 | 246.028 | 219.689 | -15.8 | -10.7 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium [3] | 223.376 | 214.233 | 193.375 | -13.4 | -9.7 |
| Medical Care | 399.380 | 401.228 | 412.710 | 3.3 | 2.9 |
| Recreation [5] | 117.536 | 117.248 | 118.193 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Education and communication [5] | 139.860 | 139.737 | 139.237 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| Other goods and services | 308.338 | 304.807 | 307.519 | -0.3 | 0.9 |
| **Commodity and Service Group** | | | | | |
| All Items | 218.543 | 220.100 | 219.792 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| Commodities | 186.043 | 185.054 | 182.727 | -1.8 | -1.3 |
| Commodities less food & beverages | 155.198 | 153.069 | 150.430 | -3.1 | -1.7 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages | 207.564 | 202.308 | 196.996 | -5.1 | -2.6 |
| Durables | 106.677 | 107.026 | 106.524 | -0.1 | -0.5 |
| Services | 252.726 | 256.731 | 258.295 | 2.2 | 0.6 |
| **Special aggregate indexes:** | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 209.540 | 211.084 | 210.169 | 0.3 | -0.4 |
| All items less shelter | 212.836 | 213.958 | 211.756 | -0.5 | -1.0 |
| Commodities less food | 158.516 | 156.441 | 153.810 | -3.0 | -1.7 |
| Nondurables | 227.570 | 225.747 | 222.231 | -2.3 | -1.6 |
| Nondurables less food | 210.198 | 205.260 | 200.155 | -4.8 | -2.5 |
| Services less rent of shelter [2] | 272.415 | 277.832 | 275.960 | 1.3 | -0.7 |
| Services less medical care services | 239.336 | 243.256 | 243.854 | 1.9 | 0.2 |
| Energy | 206.259 | 210.377 | 183.038 | -11.3 | -13.0 |
| All items less energy | 222.594 | 223.934 | 226.126 | 1.6 | 1.0 |

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 St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to 1st half 2016 from- | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 | 1st half 2016 | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 |
| All items less food and energy ..... | 218.738 | 220.008 | 222.856 | 1.9 | 1.3 |

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 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 St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to 1st half 2016 from- | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 | 1st half 2016 | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 |
| **Expenditure category** | | | | | |
| All Items | 217.378 | 218.965 | 217.752 | 0.2 | -0.6 |
| All items (1967=100) | 639.536 | 644.208 | 640.638 | | |
| Food and beverages | 248.840 | 250.198 | 248.007 | -0.3 | -0.9 |
| Food | 248.874 | 250.285 | 247.810 | -0.4 | -1.0 |
| Food at home | 234.541 | 235.337 | 230.428 | -1.8 | -2.1 |
| Food away from home | 272.137 | 274.725 | 277.291 | 1.9 | 0.9 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 220.780 | 221.206 | 218.918 | -0.8 | -1.0 |
| Housing | 210.898 | 215.727 | 214.305 | 1.6 | -0.7 |
| Shelter | 241.044 | 244.102 | 248.531 | 3.1 | 1.8 |
| Rent of primary residence [1] | 218.026 | 222.150 | 224.959 | 3.2 | 1.3 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2] | 227.871 | 231.152 | 235.410 | 3.3 | 1.8 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2] | 227.871 | 231.152 | 235.410 | 3.3 | 1.8 |
| Fuels and utilities | 211.486 | 229.973 | 204.211 | -3.4 | -11.2 |
| Household energy | 190.492 | 210.628 | 181.254 | -4.8 | -13.9 |
| Energy services [1] | 195.253 | 216.760 | 186.006 | -4.7 | -14.2 |
| Electricity [1] | 196.228 | 232.742 | 192.746 | -1.8 | -17.2 |
| Utility (piped) gas service [1] | 155.967 | 147.123 | 138.714 | -11.1 | -5.7 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 115.077 | 115.028 | 112.872 | -1.9 | -1.9 |
| Apparel | 147.737 | 146.655 | 145.521 | -1.5 | -0.8 |
| Transportation | 189.723 | 187.959 | 184.337 | -2.8 | -1.9 |
| Private transportation | 188.382 | 186.574 | 182.842 | -2.9 | -2.0 |
| Motor fuel | 228.574 | 212.909 | 186.719 | -18.3 | -12.3 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 224.822 | 209.496 | 184.067 | -18.1 | -12.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular [3] | 217.895 | 202.067 | 176.586 | -19.0 | -12.6 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4] | 260.957 | 246.028 | 219.689 | -15.8 | -10.7 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium [3] | 223.387 | 214.243 | 193.384 | -13.4 | -9.7 |
| Medical Care | 401.564 | 403.190 | 415.611 | 3.5 | 3.1 |
| Recreation [5] | 120.230 | 119.576 | 120.146 | -0.1 | 0.5 |
| Education and communication [5] | 133.124 | 133.146 | 132.685 | -0.3 | -0.3 |
| Other goods and services | 325.548 | 325.308 | 328.892 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| **Commodity and Service Group** | | | | | |
| All Items | 217.378 | 218.965 | 217.752 | 0.2 | -0.6 |
| Commodities | 189.566 | 188.524 | 185.443 | -2.2 | -1.6 |
| Commodities less food & beverages | 159.973 | 157.871 | 154.357 | -3.5 | -2.2 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages | 205.189 | 199.641 | 192.428 | -6.2 | -3.6 |
| Durables | 115.249 | 115.782 | 115.185 | -0.1 | -0.5 |
| Services | 251.190 | 255.715 | 256.547 | 2.1 | 0.3 |
| **Special aggregate indexes:** | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 209.817 | 211.401 | 209.672 | -0.1 | -0.8 |
| All items less shelter | 211.025 | 212.139 | 209.064 | -0.9 | -1.4 |
| Commodities less food | 162.637 | 160.593 | 157.107 | -3.4 | -2.2 |
| Nondurables | 226.598 | 224.554 | 219.950 | -2.9 | -2.1 |
| Nondurables less food | 206.927 | 201.725 | 194.836 | -5.8 | -3.4 |
| Services less rent of shelter [2] | 251.031 | 256.855 | 254.055 | 1.2 | -1.1 |
| Services less medical care services | 238.280 | 242.739 | 242.689 | 1.9 | 0.0 |
| Energy | 205.283 | 208.399 | 180.811 | -11.9 | -13.2 |
| All items less energy | 221.083 | 222.520 | 224.187 | 1.4 | 0.7 |

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 St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

| Item and Group | Semiannual average indexes | | | Percent change to 1st half 2016 from- | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 | 1st half 2016 | 1st half 2015 | 2nd half 2015 |
| All items less food and energy ..... | 215.377 | 216.821 | 219.255 | 1.8 | 1.1 |

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.