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MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.

Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains

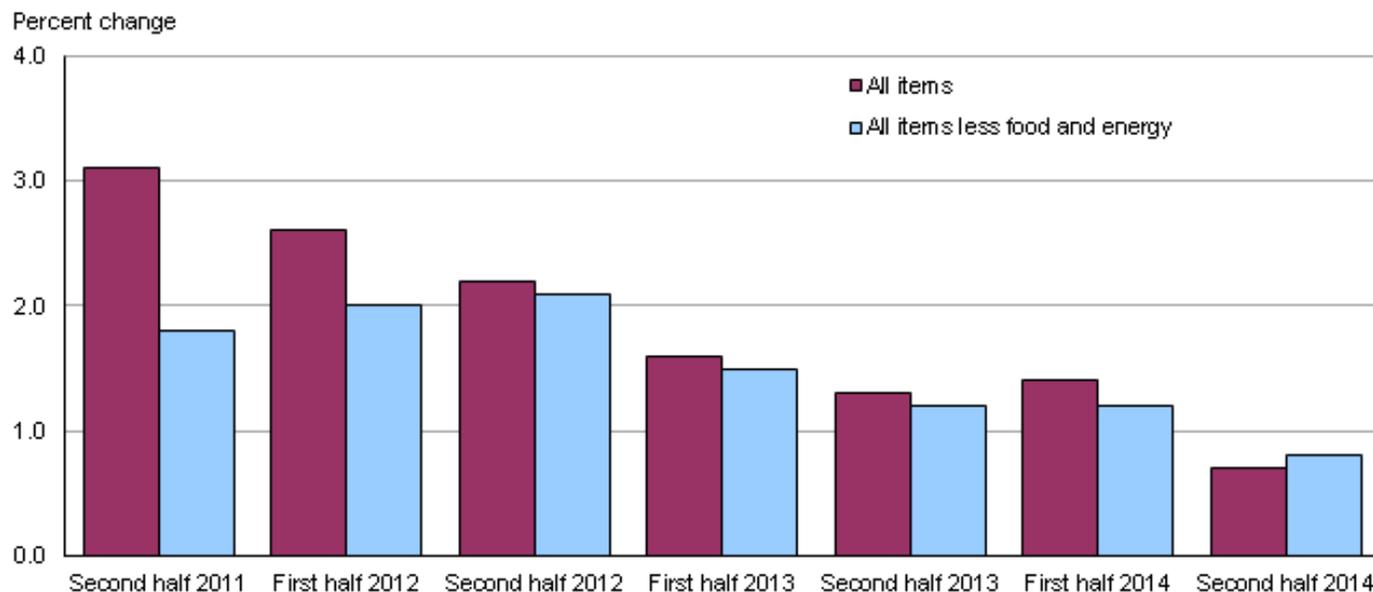
Media contact: (816) 285-7000

Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – Second Half 2014

Prices increased 0.7 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 St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area rose 0.7 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This is the smallest annual increase since 2009. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the increase was led by higher prices for food and shelter, but was moderated by lower motor fuel costs. Costs for energy declined 3.5 percent over the year, food prices advanced 3.8 percent, and the all items less food and energy index increased 0.8 percent.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 3.8 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014. Costs for food at home were up 2.4 percent and prices for food away from home were 5.4 percent higher over the year. During the same period one year ago, these indexes rose 3.1 and 3.2 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, was down 3.5 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, after registering little movement (0.1 percent) in the same period one year ago. Motor fuel prices fell 8.7 percent with all of the decrease occurring in the most recent six months of the period. In contrast, costs for utility (piped) gas service advanced 5.3 percent, and prices for electricity were little changed (0.1 percent) over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.8 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, the smallest over-the-year gain since 2006. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs were shelter (1.9 percent) and medical care (2.5 percent). In contrast, the index for education and communication (-2.3 percent) was among the components that registered lower prices over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 219.994 for the second half of 2014. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$219.99 in 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 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 second half of 2014 was 219.353. The CPI-W increased 0.4 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 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 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: 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 St. Louis, MO-IL (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.....	218.499	220.440	219.994	0.7	-0.2
All items (1967=100).....	648.977	654.744	653.419		
Food and beverages.....	237.242	243.849	245.947	3.7	0.9
Food.....	235.785	242.699	244.783	3.8	0.9
Food at home.....	225.575	230.201	231.083	2.4	0.4
Food away from home.....	252.933	261.371	266.488	5.4	2.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	230.717	232.535	234.548	1.7	0.9
Housing.....	204.757	205.896	208.167	1.7	1.1
Shelter.....	233.797	236.697	238.199	1.9	0.6
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	212.149	214.555	215.472	1.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	242.977	244.529	247.253	1.8	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	242.977	244.529	247.253	1.8	1.1
Fuels and utilities.....	212.496	207.060	216.335	1.8	4.5
Household energy.....	198.108	184.906	203.050	2.5	9.8
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	203.365	186.231	206.746	1.7	11.0
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	216.058	186.446	216.266	0.1	16.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	152.782	158.443	160.894	5.3	1.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	123.852	124.060	123.328	-0.4	-0.6
Apparel.....	150.927	154.377	152.919	1.3	-0.9
Transportation.....	203.499	205.429	196.580	-3.4	-4.3
Private transportation.....	203.352	204.930	196.615	-3.3	-4.1
Motor fuel.....	311.710	325.137	284.676	-8.7	-12.4
Gasoline (all types).....	306.755	319.708	279.782	-8.8	-12.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	298.815	311.496	272.066	-9.0	-12.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	351.855	366.468	322.183	-8.4	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	295.659	307.870	272.622	-7.8	-11.4
Medical Care.....	387.348	393.188	397.113	2.5	1.0
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	117.155	117.052	115.898	-1.1	-1.0
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	142.539	139.373	139.194	-2.3	-0.1
Other goods and services.....	308.908	310.630	309.398	0.2	-0.4
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items.....	218.499	220.440	219.994	0.7	-0.2
Commodities.....	190.130	193.181	190.242	0.1	-1.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	165.234	166.671	161.572	-2.2	-3.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	225.053	230.786	220.749	-1.9	-4.3
Durables.....	110.219	108.635	107.543	-2.4	-1.0
Services.....	248.754	249.655	251.576	1.1	0.8
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care.....	210.050	211.865	211.188	0.5	-0.3
All items less shelter.....	215.361	216.817	215.563	0.1	-0.6
Commodities less food.....	168.429	169.872	164.944	-2.1	-2.9
Nondurables.....	231.689	237.726	233.736	0.9	-1.7
Nondurables less food.....	226.938	232.375	223.047	-1.7	-4.0
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	271.393	269.835	272.130	0.3	0.9
Services less medical care services.....	235.906	236.538	238.360	1.0	0.8
Energy.....	247.814	245.934	239.112	-3.5	-2.8
All items less energy.....	218.712	220.869	221.537	1.3	0.3

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 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	216.068	217.354	217.761	0.8	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 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 2nd half 2014 from-	
	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	2nd half 2014	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014
Expenditure category					
All Items.....	218.549	220.003	219.353	0.4	-0.3
All items (1967=100).....	642.983	647.262	645.349		
Food and beverages.....	237.810	244.628	247.695	4.2	1.3
Food.....	237.224	244.206	247.326	4.3	1.3
Food at home.....	226.991	231.907	234.247	3.2	1.0
Food away from home.....	253.192	261.850	267.355	5.6	2.1
Alcoholic beverages.....	220.227	223.788	225.698	2.5	0.9
Housing.....	208.167	208.531	211.041	1.4	1.2
Shelter.....	234.543	237.305	238.999	1.9	0.7
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	212.149	214.555	215.472	1.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	222.601	224.024	226.519	1.8	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	222.601	224.024	226.519	1.8	1.1
Fuels and utilities.....	217.586	210.633	220.702	1.4	4.8
Household energy.....	202.136	186.650	206.149	2.0	10.4
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	208.165	189.533	210.884	1.3	11.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	216.057	186.445	216.264	0.1	16.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	152.783	158.444	160.895	5.3	1.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	117.316	116.720	115.333	-1.7	-1.2
Apparel.....	149.447	152.146	149.043	-0.3	-2.0
Transportation.....	208.670	209.914	200.730	-3.8	-4.4
Private transportation.....	207.698	208.694	199.750	-3.8	-4.3
Motor fuel.....	311.725	325.120	284.719	-8.7	-12.4
Gasoline (all types).....	306.755	319.709	279.783	-8.8	-12.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	298.801	311.481	272.054	-9.0	-12.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	351.855	366.468	322.183	-8.4	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	295.674	307.885	272.635	-7.8	-11.4
Medical Care.....	389.590	395.545	399.388	2.5	1.0
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	119.824	119.941	118.548	-1.1	-1.2
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	135.634	132.432	132.548	-2.3	0.1
Other goods and services.....	320.208	323.076	324.182	1.2	0.3
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items.....	218.549	220.003	219.353	0.4	-0.3
Commodities.....	195.182	197.656	194.331	-0.4	-1.7
Commodities less food & beverages.....	172.710	173.455	167.308	-3.1	-3.5
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	228.532	233.828	220.907	-3.3	-5.5
Durables.....	118.983	116.813	115.990	-2.5	-0.7
Services.....	247.505	247.790	250.094	1.0	0.9
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care.....	211.429	212.775	211.951	0.2	-0.4
All items less shelter.....	214.922	215.809	214.332	-0.3	-0.7
Commodities less food.....	175.114	175.908	169.950	-2.9	-3.4
Nondurables.....	233.028	238.565	233.771	0.3	-2.0
Nondurables less food.....	229.035	234.098	222.045	-3.1	-5.1
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	250.392	248.072	250.894	0.2	1.1
Services less medical care services.....	235.038	235.090	237.333	1.0	1.0
Energy.....	250.226	248.343	239.587	-4.3	-3.5
All items less energy.....	217.344	219.145	219.994	1.2	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 St. Louis, MO-IL (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	213.262	214.009	214.384	0.5	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 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.