

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, MINN.-WIS., MSA – FIRST HALF 2011

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area rose 3.0 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer stated that the energy index was 19.0 percent higher compared to its first half 2010 level, primarily due to increases in gasoline prices. Food prices were up 4.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent. Among the categories within the all items less food and energy index, prices for alcoholic beverages, apparel, and recreation were higher over the year.

Food

Food prices rose 4.6 percent over the year after decreasing a slight 0.1 percent from the first half of 2009 to the first half of 2010. Prices for food at home were 6.3 percent higher and the food away from home index rose 1.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 19.0 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011. Within the energy category, the index for gasoline increased 29.9 percent. The indexes for electricity (7.0 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (1.5 percent) were also higher.

All items less food and energy

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent. Among the index's components, higher costs were recorded for alcoholic beverages (11.8 percent), apparel (3.6 percent), and recreation (1.7 percent).

The second half 2011 Consumer Price Index for Minneapolis-St. Paul is scheduled to be released in February 2012.

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 25,000 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 cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.-Wis. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright Counties and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Midwest Information Office at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2011 from—	
	1st half 2010	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	1st half 2010	2nd half 2010
Expenditure category					
All items	210.965	212.492	217.374	3.0	2.3
All items (1967=100)	662.964	667.761	683.103	-	-
Food and beverages	239.711	243.385	252.805	5.5	3.9
Food	233.540	237.314	244.372	4.6	3.0
Food at home	223.487	228.708	237.656	6.3	3.9
Food away from home	248.810	249.990	253.552	1.9	1.4
Alcoholic beverages	294.847	297.498	329.688	11.8	10.8
Housing	191.703	191.932	192.915	.6	.5
Shelter	218.198	218.054	218.574	.2	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	213.834	213.850	214.963	.5	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	229.747	228.778	229.190	-.2	-.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	229.747	228.778	229.190	-.2	-.2
Fuels and utilities	179.675	181.216	187.017	4.1	3.2
Household energy	168.367	171.617	177.139	5.2	3.2
Energy services ¹	170.261	174.455	178.573	4.9	2.4
Electricity ¹	202.852	212.704	217.034	7.0	2.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	146.989	144.911	149.145	1.5	2.9
Household furnishings and operations	126.268	126.247	125.349	-.7	-.7
Apparel	121.772	128.895	126.141	3.6	-2.1
Transportation	191.345	193.361	210.528	10.0	8.9
Private transportation	177.544	179.609	196.165	10.5	9.2
Motor fuel	222.829	229.247	289.360	29.9	26.2
Gasoline (all types)	225.346	231.712	292.655	29.9	26.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	229.501	236.066	298.792	30.2	26.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	225.255	231.288	291.018	29.2	25.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	258.967	266.061	332.234	28.3	24.9
Medical care	416.180	418.536	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	116.427	116.110	118.412	1.7	2.0
Education and communication ⁵	132.133	132.203	132.369	.2	.1
Other goods and services	311.436	314.481	310.895	-.2	-1.1
Commodity and service group					
All items	210.965	212.492	217.374	3.0	2.3
Commodities	177.024	179.549	187.065	5.7	4.2
Commodities less food and beverages	146.653	148.654	155.155	5.8	4.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	186.710	190.528	204.125	9.3	7.1
Durables	110.332	110.823	111.479	1.0	.6
Services	241.274	241.829	244.137	1.2	1.0
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	201.699	203.221	208.189	3.2	2.4
All items less shelter	208.949	211.130	217.912	4.3	3.2
Commodities less food	152.517	154.551	161.943	6.2	4.8
Nondurables	212.934	216.735	228.618	7.4	5.5
Nondurables less food	194.695	198.440	213.371	9.6	7.5
Services less rent of shelter ²	279.833	281.280	286.006	2.2	1.7
Services less medical care services	226.599	227.046	229.043	1.1	.9
Energy	199.022	203.918	236.776	19.0	16.1
All items less energy	215.249	216.689	219.037	1.8	1.1
All items less food and energy	212.608	213.683	215.295	1.3	.8

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.

- Data not available.