

News

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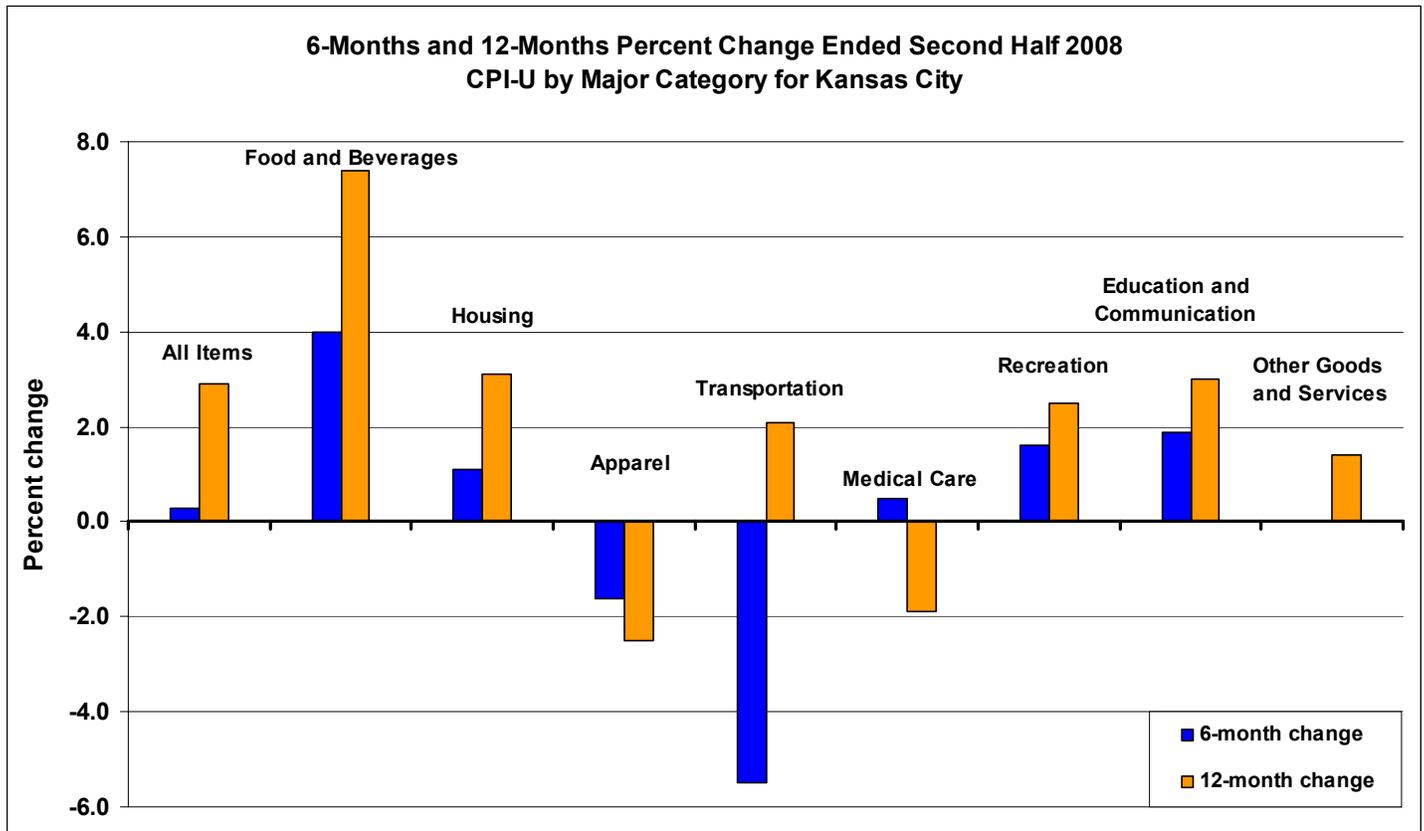
FOR RELEASE:

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR KANSAS CITY, MO-KS Prices increased 2.9 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Kansas City metropolitan area increased 2.9 percent over the year, with most of the increase occurring in the first half of the period, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman, while prices in six of the eight major expenditure categories were higher in the second half of 2008 than in the second half of 2007, over two-thirds of the movement in the overall index was attributable to rising costs for housing and food and beverages.



The housing index rose 3.1 percent due to upward pressure from both the fuels and utilities and the shelter components, and had the largest effect on the overall index among the eight major expenditure categories. Prices for fuels and utilities advanced 11.7 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008. Within fuels and utilities, electricity costs rose 9.4 percent over the year and the index for utility (piped) gas service jumped 18.3 percent following an increase of 3.2 percent in the same period one year ago. Contributing to the 1.6 percent rise in shelter costs, owners' equivalent rent of primary residence increased 1.7 percent and rent of primary residence was up 2.3 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations were 1.9 percent higher over the year.

The food and beverages index was up 7.4 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008, the largest over-the-year advance since semiannual publication of the index began in 1985, and had the second greatest impact on the overall index. Food at home prices advanced 8.4 percent and the cost of food away from home was up 6.0 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages increased 6.2 percent over the period.

Transportation costs were up 2.1 percent since the second half of 2007. Private transportation costs, which include prices for vehicles and motor fuel, rose 1.5 percent. Motor fuel prices were up just 0.6 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008 after increases in the first part of the year were partially offset by declines in the last half of 2008.

The remaining major expenditure categories contributed little to the increase in the overall index. Costs for education and communication rose 3.0 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008. Recreation prices, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, increased 2.5 percent. Providing a slight downward impact, medical care costs declined by 1.9 percent and the apparel index declined 2.5 percent following a decrease of 3.8 percent in the same period one year ago. The other goods and services index, which includes prices for tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, rose 1.4 percent.

Energy prices, which include prices for motor fuel and household fuels, were up 6.5 percent over the year, with prices declining in the last half of the year after increasing sharply in the first half. The special aggregate index for all items less energy rose 2.4 percent over the year. Excluding the impact of food and energy prices, the Kansas City CPI-U was up 1.4 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half 2008.

The Kansas City CPI-U stood at 201.432 for the second half of 2008. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$201.43 in the second half of 2008. 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.

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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 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	195.753	200.868	201.432	2.9	0.3
All items (1967=100)	581.261	596.449	598.125	-	-
Food and beverages	200.003	206.678	214.877	7.4	4.0
Food	202.481	208.728	217.860	7.6	4.4
Food at home	200.971	208.747	217.899	8.4	4.4
Food away from home	207.896	211.222	220.407	6.0	4.3
Alcoholic beverages	167.489	176.349	177.906	6.2	.9
Housing	189.345	193.093	195.133	3.1	1.1
Shelter	208.645	210.239	211.908	1.6	.8
Rent of primary residence	207.045	208.749	211.872	2.3	1.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	204.524	206.491	207.981	1.7	.7
Fuels and utilities	195.809	214.305	218.624	11.7	2.0
Household energy	174.235	189.264	198.671	14.0	5.0
Gas (piped) and electricity	173.188	186.520	196.421	13.4	5.3
Electricity	116.102	115.574	127.009	9.4	9.9
Utility (piped) gas service	250.055	294.357	295.701	18.3	.5
Household furnishings and operations	126.406	126.118	128.831	1.9	2.2
Apparel	108.442	107.382	105.704	-2.5	-1.6
Transportation	182.594	196.778	186.372	2.1	-5.3
Private transportation	180.738	195.046	183.510	1.5	-5.9
Motor fuel	256.374	299.873	257.960	.6	-14.0
Gasoline (all types)	256.183	299.713	256.772	.2	-14.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	250.595	293.843	250.710	.0	-14.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	309.683	360.241	310.416	.2	-13.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	252.207	292.579	256.041	1.5	-12.5
Medical care	302.852	295.644	297.123	-1.9	.5
Recreation ⁴	113.457	114.445	116.260	2.5	1.6
Education and communication ⁴	115.505	116.728	118.938	3.0	1.9
Other goods and services	323.679	328.186	328.220	1.4	.0
Commodity and service group					
All items	195.753	200.868	201.432	2.9	.3
Commodities	167.364	172.950	171.170	2.3	-1.0
Commodities less food and beverages	150.577	155.562	149.383	-8	-4.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	195.585	205.874	194.053	-8	-5.7
Durables	107.434	107.685	106.641	-7	-1.0
Services	223.873	228.488	231.353	3.3	1.3
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	189.820	195.535	196.042	3.3	.3
All items less shelter	192.391	198.770	199.009	3.4	.1
Commodities less food	150.929	156.143	150.431	-3	-3.7
Nondurables	197.941	206.508	204.339	3.2	-1.1
Nondurables less food	193.469	203.731	193.369	-1	-5.1
Services less rent of shelter ¹	249.228	257.236	261.959	5.1	1.8
Services less medical care services	214.185	218.408	221.306	3.3	1.3
Energy	212.496	240.711	226.380	6.5	-6.0
All items less energy	195.519	197.589	200.130	2.4	1.3
All items less food and energy	194.468	195.808	197.196	1.4	.7

¹ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Consumer Price Index for Urban 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 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	187.094	192.430	193.066	3.2	0.3
All items (1967=100)	548.186	563.820	565.685	-	-
Food and beverages	199.666	206.299	215.346	7.9	4.4
Food	201.749	207.988	217.845	8.0	4.7
Food at home	199.898	207.351	216.360	8.2	4.3
Food away from home	207.728	211.422	222.526	7.1	5.3
Alcoholic beverages	168.009	176.982	179.174	6.6	1.2
Housing	179.722	183.304	185.629	3.3	1.3
Shelter	195.862	197.209	198.924	1.6	.9
Rent of primary residence	207.045	208.749	211.872	2.3	1.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	186.206	187.997	189.353	1.7	.7
Fuels and utilities	194.785	212.962	217.445	11.6	2.1
Household energy	173.731	188.644	198.131	14.0	5.0
Gas (piped) and electricity	173.719	186.868	196.850	13.3	5.3
Electricity	116.103	115.576	127.011	9.4	9.9
Utility (piped) gas service	250.054	294.355	295.700	18.3	.5
Household furnishings and operations	114.272	113.309	116.179	1.7	2.5
Apparel	102.586	101.564	99.736	-2.8	-1.8
Transportation	173.546	186.760	176.263	1.6	-5.6
Private transportation	172.252	185.630	174.715	1.4	-5.9
Motor fuel	256.355	299.845	257.980	.6	-14.0
Gasoline (all types)	256.177	299.706	256.767	.2	-14.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	250.592	293.840	250.707	.0	-14.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	309.683	360.241	310.416	.2	-13.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	252.198	292.568	256.032	1.5	-12.5
Medical care	304.312	298.150	300.046	-1.4	.6
Recreation ⁴	112.407	113.658	115.398	2.7	1.5
Education and communication ⁴	108.849	110.363	112.475	3.3	1.9
Other goods and services	327.421	332.747	334.166	2.1	.4
Commodity and service group					
All items	187.094	192.430	193.066	3.2	.3
Commodities	162.374	168.202	166.920	2.8	-.8
Commodities less food and beverages	145.010	150.372	144.384	-.4	-4.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	192.644	204.386	192.467	-.1	-5.8
Durables	108.021	108.180	107.102	-.9	-1.0
Services	215.947	220.562	223.602	3.5	1.4
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	182.138	187.848	188.426	3.5	.3
All items less shelter	185.031	191.619	191.944	3.7	.2
Commodities less food	145.681	151.259	145.706	.0	-3.7
Nondurables	196.215	205.460	204.034	4.0	-.7
Nondurables less food	191.300	202.973	192.474	.6	-5.2
Services less rent of shelter ¹	220.087	227.584	231.949	5.4	1.9
Services less medical care services	206.496	210.651	213.674	3.5	1.4
Energy	210.986	239.162	224.372	6.3	-6.2
All items less energy	186.216	188.328	191.136	2.6	1.5
All items less food and energy	183.108	184.339	185.650	1.4	.7

¹ Index is on a December 1984=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.