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

For Release: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 **14-1542-KAN**

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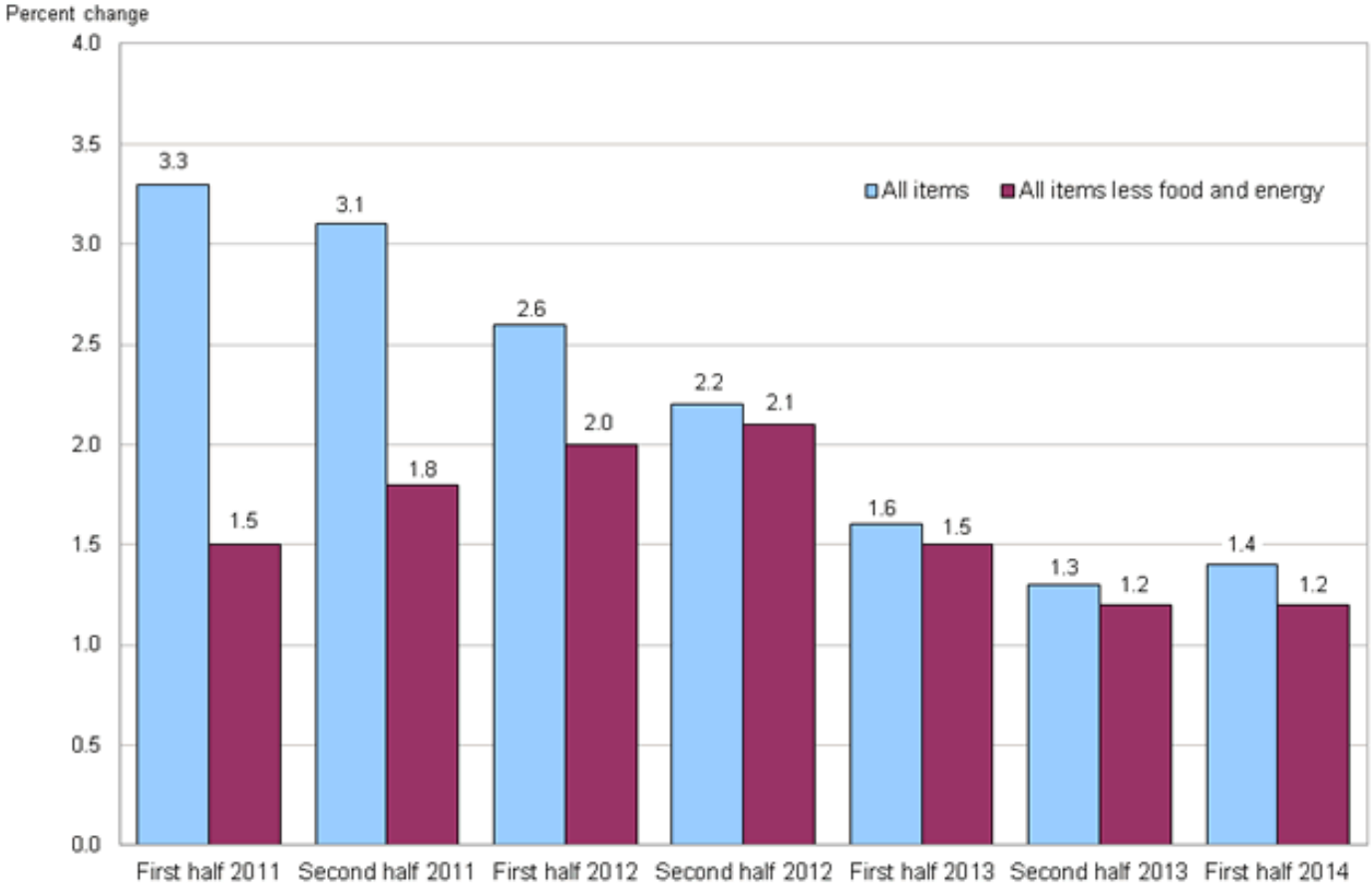
Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – First Half 2014

Prices increased 1.4 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area rose 1.4 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the increase was led by higher prices for shelter and food. Costs for energy declined 0.4 percent, food prices advanced 4.1 percent, and the all items less food and energy index increased 1.2 percent.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in consumer price indexes, St. Louis, first half 2011–first half 2014



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 4.1 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014. Costs for food at home were up 4.0 percent and prices for food away from home were 4.1 percent higher over the year. During the same period one year ago, these indexes rose 1.4 and 3.4 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, was down 0.4 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014. Motor fuel prices declined 2.0 percent with all of the decrease occurring in the first part of the period. Lower costs for electricity, down 1.2 percent, also contributed to the over-the-year decrease in the energy component. In contrast, prices for utility (piped) gas service advanced 2.8 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.2 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs over the year were shelter (2.3 percent) and medical care (3.9 percent). In contrast, the index for apparel (-4.2 percent) was among the components registering lower prices from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 220.440 for the first half of 2014. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in 1982-84 cost $220.44 in the first 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 first half of 2014 was 220.003. The CPI-W increased 1.0 percent from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014.

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 1st half 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
Expenditure category					
All Items	217.431	218.499	220.440	1.4	0.9
All items (1967=100)	645.805	648.977	654.744		
Food and beverages	234.273	237.242	243.849	4.1	2.8
Food	233.097	235.785	242.699	4.1	2.9
Food at home	221.413	225.575	230.201	4.0	2.1
Food away from home	251.103	252.933	261.371	4.1	3.3
Alcoholic beverages	223.910	230.717	232.535	3.9	0.8
Housing	202.408	204.757	205.896	1.7	0.6
Shelter	231.349	233.797	236.697	2.3	1.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	208.875	212.149	214.555	2.7	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	241.232	242.977	244.529	1.4	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	241.232	242.977	244.529	1.4	0.6
Fuels and utilities	205.817	212.496	207.060	0.6	-2.6
Household energy	181.507	198.108	184.906	1.9	-6.7
Energy services [1]	186.024	203.365	186.231	0.1	-8.4
Electricity [1]	188.766	216.058	186.446	-1.2	-13.7
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	154.152	152.782	158.443	2.8	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	124.428	123.852	124.060	-0.3	0.2
Apparel	161.184	150.927	154.377	-4.2	2.3
Transportation	206.541	203.499	205.429	-0.5	0.9
Private transportation	206.751	203.352	204.930	-0.9	0.8
Motor fuel	331.913	311.710	325.137	-2.0	4.3
Gasoline (all types)	326.948	306.755	319.708	-2.2	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	318.545	298.815	311.496	-2.2	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	375.087	351.855	366.468	-2.3	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	314.080	295.659	307.870	-2.0	4.1
Medical Care	378.404	387.348	393.188	3.9	1.5
Recreation [5]	117.611	117.155	117.052	-0.5	-0.1
Education and communication [5]	138.477	142.539	139.373	0.6	-2.2
Other goods and services	309.246	308.908	310.630	0.4	0.6
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	217.431	218.499	220.440	1.4	0.9
Commodities	191.757	190.130	193.181	0.7	1.6
Commodities less food & beverages	168.826	165.234	166.671	-1.3	0.9
Nondurables less food & beverages	232.725	225.053	230.786	-0.8	2.5
Durables	110.120	110.219	108.635	-1.3	-1.4
Services	245.285	248.754	249.655	1.8	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	209.304	210.050	211.865	1.2	0.9
All items less shelter	214.715	215.361	216.817	1.0	0.7
Commodities less food	171.771	168.429	169.872	-1.1	0.9
Nondurables	234.279	231.689	237.726	1.5	2.6
Nondurables less food	233.865	226.938	232.375	-0.6	2.4
Services less rent of shelter [2]	266.485	271.393	269.835	1.3	-0.6
Services less medical care services	232.915	235.906	236.538	1.6	0.3
Energy	246.873	247.814	245.934	-0.4	-0.8
All items less energy	217.165	218.712	220.869	1.7	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 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
All items less food and energy	214.721	216.068	217.354	1.2	0.6

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 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
Expenditure category					
All Items	217.826	218.549	220.003	1.0	0.7
All items (1967=100)	640.855	642.983	647.262		
Food and beverages	234.760	237.810	244.628	4.2	2.9
Food	234.355	237.224	244.206	4.2	2.9
Food at home	222.516	226.991	231.907	4.2	2.2
Food away from home	251.782	253.192	261.850	4.0	3.4
Alcoholic beverages	214.879	220.227	223.788	4.1	1.6
Housing	205.559	208.167	208.531	1.4	0.2
Shelter	232.232	234.543	237.305	2.2	1.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	208.875	212.149	214.555	2.7	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	221.002	222.601	224.024	1.4	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	221.002	222.601	224.024	1.4	0.6
Fuels and utilities	210.268	217.586	210.633	0.2	-3.2
Household energy	184.470	202.136	186.650	1.2	-7.7
Energy services [1]	189.618	208.165	189.533	0.0	-9.0
Electricity [1]	188.765	216.057	186.445	-1.2	-13.7
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	154.153	152.783	158.444	2.8	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	117.681	117.316	116.720	-0.8	-0.5
Apparel	161.334	149.447	152.146	-5.7	1.8
Transportation	212.362	208.670	209.914	-1.2	0.6
Private transportation	211.577	207.698	208.694	-1.4	0.5
Motor fuel	331.895	311.725	325.120	-2.0	4.3
Gasoline (all types)	326.949	306.755	319.709	-2.2	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	318.530	298.801	311.481	-2.2	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	375.087	351.855	366.468	-2.3	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	314.095	295.674	307.885	-2.0	4.1
Medical Care	379.799	389.590	395.545	4.1	1.5
Recreation [5]	120.181	119.824	119.941	-0.2	0.1
Education and communication [5]	132.089	135.634	132.432	0.3	-2.4
Other goods and services	320.501	320.208	323.076	0.8	0.9
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	217.826	218.549	220.003	1.0	0.7
Commodities	197.475	195.182	197.656	0.1	1.3
Commodities less food & beverages	177.001	172.710	173.455	-2.0	0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages	237.180	228.532	233.828	-1.4	2.3
Durables	119.267	118.983	116.813	-2.1	-1.8
Services	243.913	247.505	247.790	1.6	0.1
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	210.975	211.429	212.775	0.9	0.6
All items less shelter	214.716	214.922	215.809	0.5	0.4
Commodities less food	179.199	175.114	175.908	-1.8	0.5
Nondurables	236.451	233.028	238.565	0.9	2.4
Nondurables less food	237.020	229.035	234.098	-1.2	2.2
Services less rent of shelter [2]	245.548	250.392	248.072	1.0	-0.9
Services less medical care services	231.891	235.038	235.090	1.4	0.0
Energy	250.288	250.226	248.343	-0.8	-0.8
All items less energy	215.974	217.344	219.145	1.5	0.8

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 2014 from-	
	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013	1st half 2014	1st half 2013	2nd half 2013
All items less food and energy	212.153	213.262	214.009	0.9	0.4

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.