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

**For Release: Thursday, February 26, 2015** **15-278-KAN**

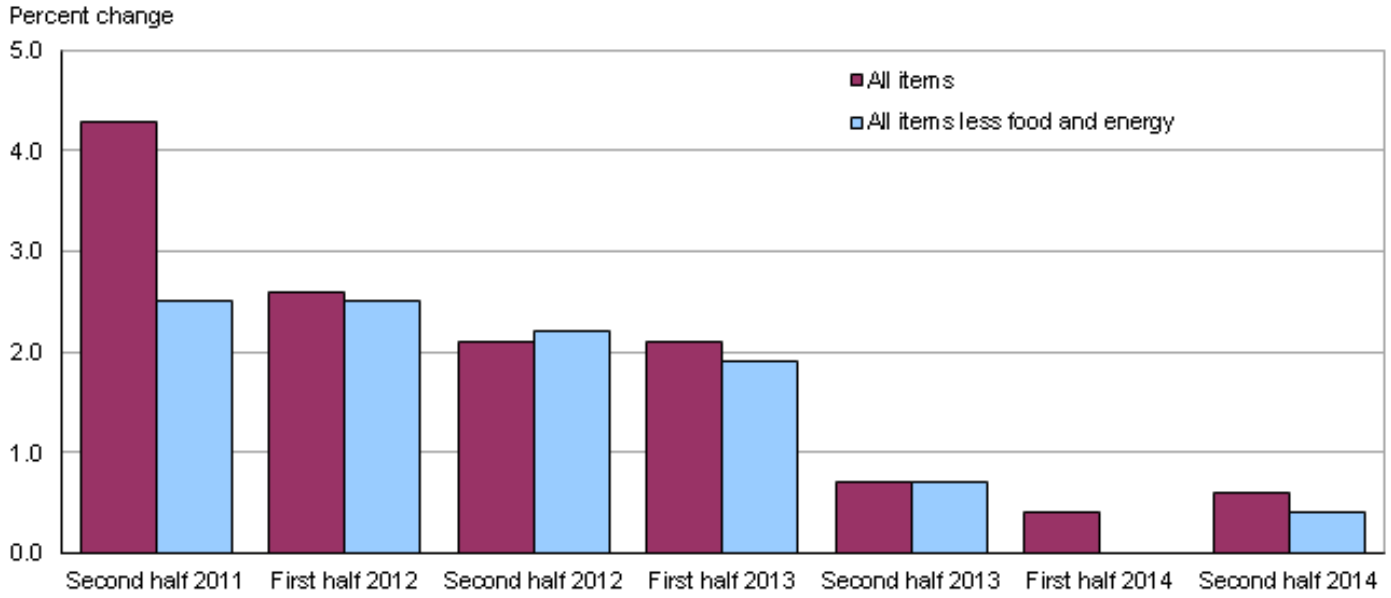
MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.
Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains
Media contact: (816) 285-7000

# Consumer Price Index, Kansas City – Second Half 2014

## Prices increased 0.6 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 Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., metropolitan area increased 0.6 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the indexes for food and shelter had the largest upward impact on the all items index. Costs for energy declined 2.9 percent, food prices advanced 3.9 percent, and the all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent over the year.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Kansas City, second half 2011–second half 2014**




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices rose 3.9 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014. Within the food index, costs for food at home led the advance with a 4.7-percent increase, the largest annual gain since 2011. Prices for food away from home also contributed to the increase, up 3.3 percent. These compared with gains of 0.9 and 1.1 percent, respectively, in the same period one year ago.

**Energy**

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 2.9 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, registering the first over-the-year decrease in this component since 2009. Falling prices for motor fuel (-5.4 percent), which occurred in the most recent six months of the period, were largely responsible for the decline in the energy index. Costs for electricity, down 2.8 percent over the year, also contributed to the decrease. In contrast, prices for utility (piped) gas service advanced 4.6 percent from the second half of 2013.

**All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent from the second half of 2013 to the second half of 2014, following a gain of 0.7 percent in the same period one year ago. Shelter costs advanced 1.8 percent and had the largest upward impact on the all items less food and energy index. In contrast, apparel (-4.2 percent) and recreation (-2.1 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the year.

The Kansas City CPI-U stood at 222.470 for the second half of 2014. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in 1982-84 cost $222.47 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 Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., metropolitan area for the second half of 2014 was 214.311. The CPI-W increased 0.5 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 Kansas City, Mo.-Kan., area covered in this release includes Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas; and Cass, Clay, Clinton, Jackson, Lafayette, Platte, and Ray Counties 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 Kansas City, MO-KS (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 | 221.168 | 222.842 | 222.470 | 0.6 | -0.2 |
| All items (1967=100) | 656.728 | 661.697 | 660.592 | | |
| Food and beverages | 245.839 | 249.749 | 255.318 | 3.9 | 2.2 |
| Food | 251.032 | 255.052 | 260.738 | 3.9 | 2.2 |
| Food at home | 239.889 | 245.461 | 251.246 | 4.7 | 2.4 |
| Food away from home | 267.350 | 271.526 | 276.272 | 3.3 | 1.7 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 186.036 | 188.608 | 192.818 | 3.6 | 2.2 |
| Housing | 205.725 | 207.730 | 208.829 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| Shelter | 227.290 | 229.512 | 231.383 | 1.8 | 0.8 |
| Rent of primary residence [1] | 231.179 | 233.518 | 236.641 | 2.4 | 1.3 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2] | 224.288 | 225.719 | 227.932 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2] | 224.288 | 225.719 | 227.932 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Fuels and utilities | 227.862 | 232.356 | 232.619 | 2.1 | 0.1 |
| Household energy | 197.745 | 200.999 | 197.587 | -0.1 | -1.7 |
| Energy services [1] | 195.379 | 198.208 | 195.305 | 0.0 | -1.5 |
| Electricity [1] | 162.759 | 156.491 | 158.233 | -2.8 | 1.1 |
| Utility (piped) gas service [1] | 197.406 | 218.245 | 206.438 | 4.6 | -5.4 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 124.209 | 124.098 | 122.360 | -1.5 | -1.4 |
| Apparel | 121.369 | 120.186 | 116.323 | -4.2 | -3.2 |
| Transportation | 209.137 | 212.086 | 204.681 | -2.1 | -3.5 |
| Private transportation | 206.124 | 209.281 | 202.169 | -1.9 | -3.4 |
| Motor fuel | 293.340 | 306.027 | 277.639 | -5.4 | -9.3 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 293.351 | 305.006 | 276.570 | -5.7 | -9.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular [3] | 286.887 | 298.380 | 270.348 | -5.8 | -9.4 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4] | 356.776 | 370.843 | 335.535 | -6.0 | -9.5 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium [3] | 285.500 | 296.360 | 270.634 | -5.2 | -8.7 |
| Medical Care | 338.640 | 336.849 | 339.435 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Recreation [5] | 130.811 | 130.336 | 128.090 | -2.1 | -1.7 |
| Education and communication [5] | 128.337 | 127.780 | 127.697 | -0.5 | -0.1 |
| Other goods and services | 378.223 | 380.770 | 383.306 | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| **Commodity and Service Group** | | | | | |
| All Items | 221.168 | 222.842 | 222.470 | 0.6 | -0.2 |
| Commodities | 189.752 | 190.720 | 188.832 | -0.5 | -1.0 |
| Commodities less food & beverages | 162.513 | 162.366 | 157.413 | -3.1 | -3.1 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages | 220.081 | 220.256 | 210.795 | -4.2 | -4.3 |
| Durables | 108.921 | 108.145 | 107.107 | -1.7 | -1.0 |
| Services | 252.158 | 254.498 | 255.519 | 1.3 | 0.4 |
| **Special aggregate indexes:** | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 214.611 | 216.459 | 215.909 | 0.6 | -0.3 |
| All items less shelter | 220.654 | 222.129 | 220.812 | 0.1 | -0.6 |
| Commodities less food | 163.487 | 163.401 | 158.785 | -2.9 | -2.8 |
| Nondurables | 232.799 | 234.689 | 232.345 | -0.2 | -1.0 |
| Nondurables less food | 218.289 | 218.537 | 210.096 | -3.8 | -3.9 |
| Services less rent of shelter [2] | 290.439 | 292.831 | 292.769 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Services less medical care services | 240.130 | 242.062 | 243.052 | 1.2 | 0.4 |
| Energy | 243.102 | 250.577 | 236.031 | -2.9 | -5.8 |
| All items less energy | 220.334 | 221.493 | 222.504 | 1.0 | 0.5 |

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 Kansas City, MO-KS (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 ..... | 215.355 | 216.040 | 216.269 | 0.4 | 0.1 |

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 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.

**Table 2. Consumer Price Index for 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 2014 from- | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2nd half 2013 | 1st half 2014 | 2nd half 2014 | 2nd half 2013 | 1st half 2014 |
| **Expenditure category** | | | | | |
| All Items | 213.175 | 214.905 | 214.311 | 0.5 | -0.3 |
| All items (1967=100) | 624.604 | 629.671 | 627.932 | | |
| Food and beverages | 248.473 | 252.235 | 258.074 | 3.9 | 2.3 |
| Food | 252.789 | 256.689 | 262.576 | 3.9 | 2.3 |
| Food at home | 239.069 | 244.696 | 250.526 | 4.8 | 2.4 |
| Food away from home | 274.036 | 277.819 | 282.902 | 3.2 | 1.8 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 189.549 | 191.419 | 196.570 | 3.7 | 2.7 |
| Housing | 197.025 | 198.978 | 200.250 | 1.6 | 0.6 |
| Shelter | 215.170 | 216.955 | 219.005 | 1.8 | 0.9 |
| Rent of primary residence [1] | 231.179 | 233.518 | 236.641 | 2.4 | 1.3 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2] | 204.200 | 205.503 | 207.518 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2] | 204.200 | 205.503 | 207.518 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Fuels and utilities | 227.794 | 232.043 | 232.560 | 2.1 | 0.2 |
| Household energy | 198.273 | 201.318 | 198.146 | -0.1 | -1.6 |
| Energy services [1] | 196.348 | 198.887 | 195.968 | -0.2 | -1.5 |
| Electricity [1] | 162.761 | 156.493 | 158.235 | -2.8 | 1.1 |
| Utility (piped) gas service [1] | 197.405 | 218.244 | 206.437 | 4.6 | -5.4 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 112.698 | 112.691 | 110.902 | -1.6 | -1.6 |
| Apparel | 109.300 | 109.178 | 106.853 | -2.2 | -2.1 |
| Transportation | 197.614 | 201.722 | 193.153 | -2.3 | -4.2 |
| Private transportation | 196.207 | 200.502 | 192.053 | -2.1 | -4.2 |
| Motor fuel | 293.351 | 305.973 | 277.544 | -5.4 | -9.3 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 293.344 | 304.999 | 276.563 | -5.7 | -9.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular [3] | 286.884 | 298.377 | 270.345 | -5.8 | -9.4 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4] | 356.776 | 370.843 | 335.535 | -6.0 | -9.5 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium [3] | 285.490 | 296.349 | 270.624 | -5.2 | -8.7 |
| Medical Care | 346.416 | 344.466 | 347.206 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Recreation [5] | 130.190 | 129.064 | 126.438 | -2.9 | -2.0 |
| Education and communication [5] | 117.928 | 117.148 | 116.407 | -1.3 | -0.6 |
| Other goods and services | 404.123 | 407.396 | 410.582 | 1.6 | 0.8 |
| **Commodity and Service Group** | | | | | |
| All Items | 213.175 | 214.905 | 214.311 | 0.5 | -0.3 |
| Commodities | 186.705 | 188.214 | 186.006 | -0.4 | -1.2 |
| Commodities less food & beverages | 158.594 | 159.601 | 154.045 | -2.9 | -3.5 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages | 219.909 | 222.040 | 211.670 | -3.7 | -4.7 |
| Durables | 110.447 | 109.080 | 107.937 | -2.3 | -1.0 |
| Services | 243.687 | 245.722 | 246.680 | 1.2 | 0.4 |
| **Special aggregate indexes:** | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 207.457 | 209.334 | 208.575 | 0.5 | -0.4 |
| All items less shelter | 213.569 | 215.275 | 213.615 | 0.0 | -0.8 |
| Commodities less food | 159.884 | 160.876 | 155.612 | -2.7 | -3.3 |
| Nondurables | 234.269 | 236.928 | 234.074 | -0.1 | -1.2 |
| Nondurables less food | 219.068 | 221.118 | 211.599 | -3.4 | -4.3 |
| Services less rent of shelter [2] | 255.266 | 257.138 | 256.763 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| Services less medical care services | 231.616 | 233.250 | 234.188 | 1.1 | 0.4 |
| Energy | 242.329 | 249.848 | 234.850 | -3.1 | -6.0 |
| All items less energy | 211.391 | 212.323 | 213.523 | 1.0 | 0.6 |

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 Kansas City, MO-KS (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 ..... | 203.185 | 203.598 | 203.955 | 0.4 | 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 December 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.