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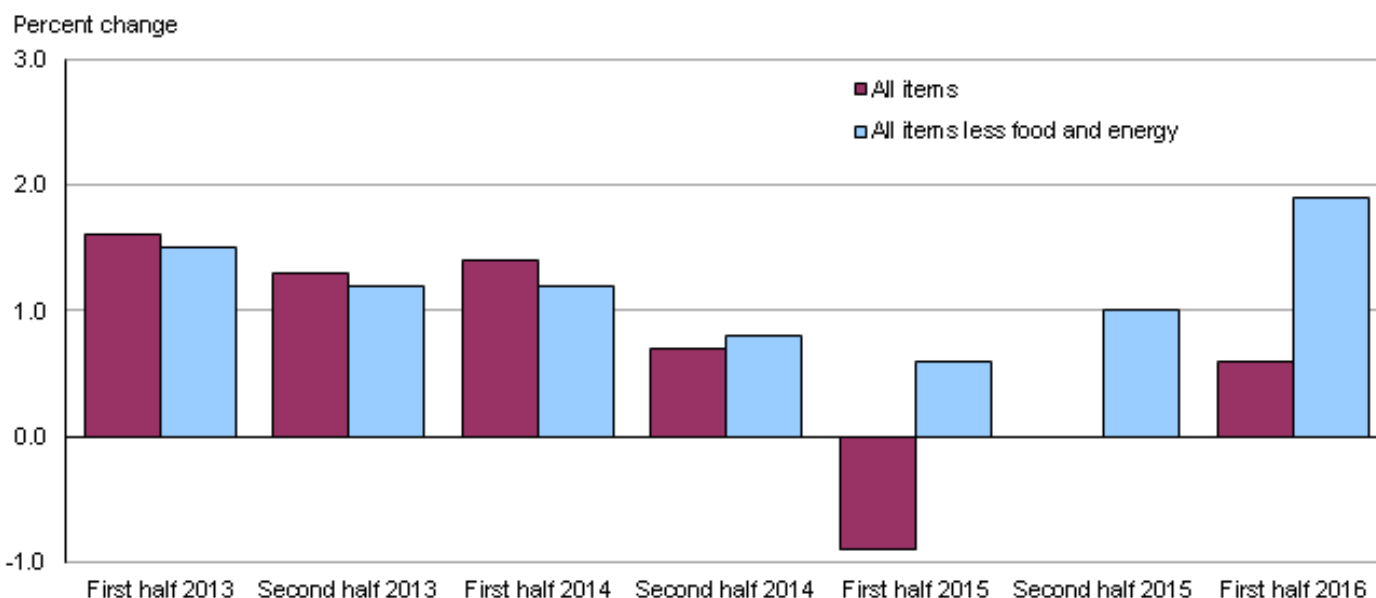
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## Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – First Half 2016

### Prices increased 0.6 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area increased 0.6 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher shelter costs (3.2 percent) had the largest upward impact on the index, while lower motor fuel prices (-18.2 percent) had the greatest downward influence on the index. Overall, energy costs fell 11.3 percent, food prices were little changed (-0.1 percent), and the all items less food and energy index rose 1.9 percent over the year.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, St. Louis, first half 2013–first half 2016**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices registered little movement (-0.1 percent) from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016. Costs for food away from home rose 1.8 percent, while prices for food at home declined 1.4 percent. During the same period one year ago, these indexes rose 3.9 and 0.3 percent, respectively.

## **Energy**

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 11.3 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, after decreasing 16.1 percent in the same period one year ago. Falling prices for motor fuel (-18.2 percent) were largely responsible for the decline in the energy component. Lower costs for utility (piped) gas service (-11.1 percent) and electricity (-1.8 percent) also contributed to the decrease. During the same period one year ago, motor fuel costs fell 29.7 percent, prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 1.6 percent, and electricity costs rose 5.2 percent.

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016, following an increase of 0.6 percent in the same period one year ago. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs were shelter (3.2 percent) and medical care (3.3 percent). In contrast, the indexes for household furnishings and operations (-1.9 percent) and education and communication (-0.4 percent) were among the components that registered lower prices over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 219.792 for the first half of 2016. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$219.79 in the first half of 2016. 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 2016 was 217.752. The CPI-W increased 0.2 percent from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2016.

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**The Consumer Price Index for the Second Half of 2016 is scheduled to be released in January 2017.**

## **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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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](http://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](http://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: (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 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	218.543	220.100	219.792	0.6	-0.1
All items (1967=100) .....	649.109	653.732	652.820		
Food and beverages .....	246.906	248.553	246.670	-0.1	-0.8
Food .....	246.281	248.015	246.030	-0.1	-0.8
Food at home .....	230.911	232.222	227.704	-1.4	-1.9
Food away from home.....	271.495	273.942	276.302	1.8	0.9
Alcoholic beverages .....	228.032	228.278	226.522	-0.7	-0.8
Housing .....	208.155	212.305	211.700	1.7	-0.3
Shelter .....	240.275	243.064	247.917	3.2	2.0
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	218.026	222.150	224.959	3.2	1.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	248.729	252.310	256.958	3.3	1.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> ..	248.729	252.310	256.958	3.3	1.8
Fuels and utilities.....	207.325	224.359	200.024	-3.5	-10.8
Household energy .....	187.706	206.411	178.321	-5.0	-13.6
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	191.633	211.955	182.239	-4.9	-14.0
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	196.229	232.743	192.747	-1.8	-17.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	155.966	147.123	138.714	-11.1	-5.7
Household furnishings and operations .....	122.936	122.984	120.658	-1.9	-1.9
Apparel .....	152.607	151.959	152.559	0.0	0.4
Transportation .....	186.351	184.691	181.623	-2.5	-1.7
Private transportation .....	185.532	183.828	180.755	-2.6	-1.7
Motor fuel .....	228.602	212.959	186.966	-18.2	-12.2
Gasoline (all types).....	224.821	209.495	184.067	-18.1	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	217.906	202.077	176.594	-19.0	-12.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	260.957	246.028	219.689	-15.8	-10.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	223.376	214.233	193.375	-13.4	-9.7
Medical Care .....	399.380	401.228	412.710	3.3	2.9
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	117.536	117.248	118.193	0.6	0.8
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	139.860	139.737	139.237	-0.4	-0.4
Other goods and services .....	308.338	304.807	307.519	-0.3	0.9
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	218.543	220.100	219.792	0.6	-0.1
Commodities .....	186.043	185.054	182.727	-1.8	-1.3
Commodities less food & beverages.....	155.198	153.069	150.430	-3.1	-1.7
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	207.564	202.308	196.996	-5.1	-2.6
Durables .....	106.677	107.026	106.524	-0.1	-0.5
Services.....	252.726	256.731	258.295	2.2	0.6
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care .....	209.540	211.084	210.169	0.3	-0.4
All items less shelter.....	212.836	213.958	211.756	-0.5	-1.0
Commodities less food .....	158.516	156.441	153.810	-3.0	-1.7
Nondurables .....	227.570	225.747	222.231	-2.3	-1.6
Nondurables less food.....	210.198	205.260	200.155	-4.8	-2.5
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	272.415	277.832	275.960	1.3	-0.7
Services less medical care services.....	239.336	243.256	243.854	1.9	0.2
Energy .....	206.259	210.377	183.038	-11.3	-13.0
All items less energy .....	222.594	223.934	226.126	1.6	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 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
All items less food and energy .....	218.738	220.008	222.856	1.9	1.3

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 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	217.378	218.965	217.752	0.2	-0.6
All items (1967=100) .....	639.536	644.208	640.638		
Food and beverages .....	248.840	250.198	248.007	-0.3	-0.9
Food .....	248.874	250.285	247.810	-0.4	-1.0
Food at home .....	234.541	235.337	230.428	-1.8	-2.1
Food away from home.....	272.137	274.725	277.291	1.9	0.9
Alcoholic beverages .....	220.780	221.206	218.918	-0.8	-1.0
Housing .....	210.898	215.727	214.305	1.6	-0.7
Shelter .....	241.044	244.102	248.531	3.1	1.8
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	218.026	222.150	224.959	3.2	1.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	227.871	231.152	235.410	3.3	1.8
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> ..	227.871	231.152	235.410	3.3	1.8
Fuels and utilities.....	211.486	229.973	204.211	-3.4	-11.2
Household energy .....	190.492	210.628	181.254	-4.8	-13.9
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	195.253	216.760	186.006	-4.7	-14.2
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	196.228	232.742	192.746	-1.8	-17.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	155.967	147.123	138.714	-11.1	-5.7
Household furnishings and operations .....	115.077	115.028	112.872	-1.9	-1.9
Apparel .....	147.737	146.655	145.521	-1.5	-0.8
Transportation .....	189.723	187.959	184.337	-2.8	-1.9
Private transportation .....	188.382	186.574	182.842	-2.9	-2.0
Motor fuel .....	228.574	212.909	186.719	-18.3	-12.3
Gasoline (all types).....	224.822	209.496	184.067	-18.1	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	217.895	202.067	176.586	-19.0	-12.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	260.957	246.028	219.689	-15.8	-10.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	223.387	214.243	193.384	-13.4	-9.7
Medical Care .....	401.564	403.190	415.611	3.5	3.1
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	120.230	119.576	120.146	-0.1	0.5
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	133.124	133.146	132.685	-0.3	-0.3
Other goods and services .....	325.548	325.308	328.892	1.0	1.1
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	217.378	218.965	217.752	0.2	-0.6
Commodities .....	189.566	188.524	185.443	-2.2	-1.6
Commodities less food & beverages.....	159.973	157.871	154.357	-3.5	-2.2
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	205.189	199.641	192.428	-6.2	-3.6
Durables .....	115.249	115.782	115.185	-0.1	-0.5
Services.....	251.190	255.715	256.547	2.1	0.3
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care .....	209.817	211.401	209.672	-0.1	-0.8
All items less shelter.....	211.025	212.139	209.064	-0.9	-1.4
Commodities less food .....	162.637	160.593	157.107	-3.4	-2.2
Nondurables .....	226.598	224.554	219.950	-2.9	-2.1
Nondurables less food.....	206.927	201.725	194.836	-5.8	-3.4
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	251.031	256.855	254.055	1.2	-1.1
Services less medical care services.....	238.280	242.739	242.689	1.9	0.0
Energy .....	205.283	208.399	180.811	-11.9	-13.2
All items less energy .....	221.083	222.520	224.187	1.4	0.7

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 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
All items less food and energy .....	215.377	216.821	219.255	1.8	1.1

**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 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.