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

For Release: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 **17-53-KAN**

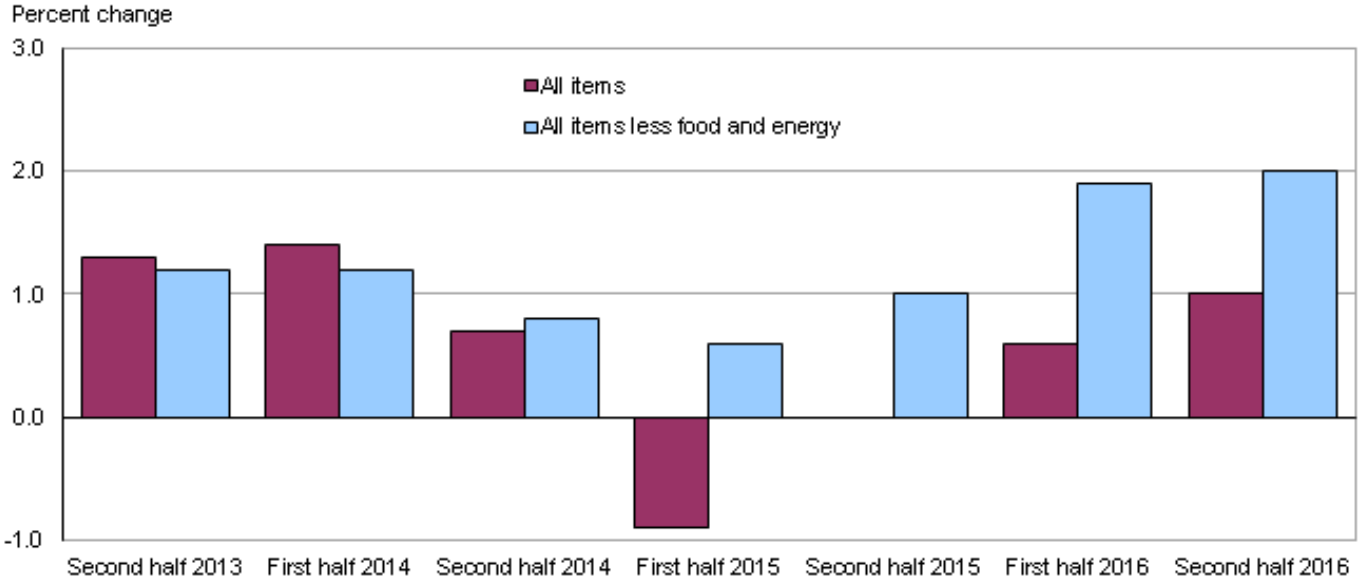
MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.
Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains
Media contact: (816) 285-7000

Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – Second Half 2016

Prices increased 1.0 percent from the second half of 2015 to the second half of 2016

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area increased 1.0 percent from the second half of 2015 to the second 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 (3.4 percent) had the largest upward impact on the index. Energy costs decreased 5.4 percent and food prices declined 0.7 percent. The all items less food and energy index, which includes shelter, rose 2.0 percent over the year.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices decreased 0.7 percent from the second half of 2015 to the second half of 2016, compared to a 1.3-percent increase in the same period one year ago. Costs for food at home declined 2.5 percent, the largest annual decline since 1993, while prices for food away from home rose 2.0 percent. During the same period one year ago, these indexes rose 0.5 and 2.8 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 5.4 percent from the second half of 2015 to the second half of 2016, after decreasing 12.0 percent in the same period one year ago. Falling prices for electricity (-5.5 percent) and motor fuel (-5.8 percent) were largely responsible for the decline in the energy component, though lower costs for utility (piped) gas service (-3.6 percent) also contributed to the decrease. The declines in each of these energy components occurred in the first half of the year and were moderated by increases in the most recent half. In the same period one year ago, electricity costs rose 7.6 percent, motor fuel prices fell 25.2 percent, and prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 8.6 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.0 percent from the second half of 2015 to the second half of 2016, following an increase of 1.0 percent in the same period one year ago. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs were shelter (3.4 percent) and medical care (6.9 percent). In contrast, the index for education and communication (-2.0 percent) was among the components that registered lower prices over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 222.357 for the second half of 2016. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $222.36 in the second 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 second half of 2016 was 220.082. The CPI-W increased 0.5 percent from the second half of 2015 to the second half of 2016.

The Consumer Price Index for the First Half of 2017 is scheduled to be released on July 14, 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 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: (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 2nd half 2016 from-	
	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016
Expenditure category					
All Items	220.100	219.792	222.357	1.0	1.2
All items (1967=100)	653.732	652.820	660.438		
Food and beverages	248.553	246.670	247.099	-0.6	0.2
Food	248.015	246.030	246.273	-0.7	0.1
Food at home	232.222	227.704	226.344	-2.5	-0.6
Food away from home	273.942	276.302	279.287	2.0	1.1
Alcoholic beverages	228.278	226.522	228.984	0.3	1.1
Housing	212.305	211.700	216.203	1.8	2.1
Shelter	243.064	247.917	251.360	3.4	1.4
Rent of primary residence(1)	222.150	224.959	227.178	2.3	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	252.310	256.958	262.060	3.9	2.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	252.310	256.958	262.060	3.9	2.0
Fuels and utilities	224.359	200.024	216.280	-3.6	8.1
Household energy	206.411	178.321	195.802	-5.1	9.8
Energy services(1)	211.955	182.239	200.287	-5.5	9.9
Electricity(1)	232.743	192.747	219.923	-5.5	14.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	147.123	138.714	141.849	-3.6	2.3
Household furnishings and operations	122.984	120.658	121.307	-1.4	0.5
Apparel	151.959	152.559	154.237	1.5	1.1
Transportation	184.691	181.623	181.137	-1.9	-0.3
Private transportation	183.828	180.755	181.081	-1.5	0.2
Motor fuel	212.959	186.966	200.586	-5.8	7.3
Gasoline (all types)	209.495	184.067	197.398	-5.8	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	202.077	176.594	189.682	-6.1	7.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	246.028	219.689	234.009	-4.9	6.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	214.233	193.375	206.357	-3.7	6.7
Medical Care	401.228	412.710	428.846	6.9	3.9
Recreation(5)	117.248	118.193	119.109	1.6	0.8
Education and communication(5)	139.737	139.237	137.008	-2.0	-1.6
Other goods and services	304.807	307.519	307.199	0.8	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	220.100	219.792	222.357	1.0	1.2
Commodities	185.054	182.727	182.983	-1.1	0.1
Commodities less food & beverages	153.069	150.430	150.608	-1.6	0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	202.308	196.996	200.139	-1.1	1.6
Durables	107.026	106.524	104.675	-2.2	-1.7
Services	256.731	258.295	263.016	2.4	1.8
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	211.084	210.169	212.051	0.5	0.9
All items less shelter	213.958	211.756	214.023	0.0	1.1
Commodities less food	156.441	153.810	154.059	-1.5	0.2
Nondurables	225.747	222.231	224.112	-0.7	0.8
Nondurables less food	205.260	200.155	203.269	-1.0	1.6
Services less rent of shelter(2)	277.832	275.960	282.066	1.5	2.2
Services less medical care services	243.256	243.854	247.122	1.6	1.3
Energy	210.377	183.038	198.956	-5.4	8.7
All items less energy	223.934	226.126	227.495	1.6	0.6

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 2nd half 2016 from-	
	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016
All items less food and energy	220.008	222.856	224.403	2.0	0.7

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 2nd half 2016 from-	
	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016
Expenditure category					
All Items	218.965	217.752	220.082	0.5	1.1
All items (1967=100)	644.208	640.638	647.493		
Food and beverages	250.198	248.007	248.523	-0.7	0.2
Food	250.285	247.810	248.068	-0.9	0.1
Food at home	235.337	230.428	229.296	-2.6	-0.5
Food away from home	274.725	277.291	280.401	2.1	1.1
Alcoholic beverages	221.206	218.918	221.257	0.0	1.1
Housing	215.727	214.305	219.382	1.7	2.4
Shelter	244.102	248.531	252.094	3.3	1.4
Rent of primary residence(1)	222.150	224.959	227.178	2.3	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	231.152	235.410	240.084	3.9	2.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	231.152	235.410	240.084	3.9	2.0
Fuels and utilities	229.973	204.211	221.286	-3.8	8.4
Household energy	210.628	181.254	199.303	-5.4	10.0
Energy services(1)	216.760	186.006	204.933	-5.5	10.2
Electricity(1)	232.742	192.746	219.922	-5.5	14.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	147.123	138.714	141.849	-3.6	2.3
Household furnishings and operations	115.028	112.872	113.773	-1.1	0.8
Apparel	146.655	145.521	145.726	-0.6	0.1
Transportation	187.959	184.337	184.120	-2.0	-0.1
Private transportation	186.574	182.842	183.116	-1.9	0.1
Motor fuel	212.909	186.719	200.405	-5.9	7.3
Gasoline (all types)	209.496	184.067	197.398	-5.8	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	202.067	176.586	189.673	-6.1	7.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	246.028	219.689	234.009	-4.9	6.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	214.243	193.384	206.366	-3.7	6.7
Medical Care	403.190	415.611	432.039	7.2	4.0
Recreation(5)	119.576	120.146	120.351	0.6	0.2
Education and communication(5)	133.146	132.685	130.503	-2.0	-1.6
Other goods and services	325.308	328.892	328.887	1.1	0.0
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	218.965	217.752	220.082	0.5	1.1
Commodities	188.524	185.443	185.765	-1.5	0.2
Commodities less food & beverages	157.871	154.357	154.589	-2.1	0.2
Nondurables less food & beverages	199.641	192.428	195.737	-2.0	1.7
Durables	115.782	115.185	113.249	-2.2	-1.7
Services	255.715	256.547	261.116	2.1	1.8
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	211.401	209.672	211.471	0.0	0.9
All items less shelter	212.139	209.064	211.009	-0.5	0.9
Commodities less food	160.593	157.107	157.439	-2.0	0.2
Nondurables	224.554	219.950	221.891	-1.2	0.9
Nondurables less food	201.725	194.836	198.037	-1.8	1.6
Services less rent of shelter(2)	256.855	254.055	259.359	1.0	2.1
Services less medical care services	242.739	242.689	246.006	1.3	1.4
Energy	208.399	180.811	196.685	-5.6	8.8
All items less energy	222.520	224.187	225.102	1.2	0.4

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 2nd half 2016 from-	
	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016
All items less food and energy	216.821	219.255	220.287	1.6	0.5

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.