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

For Release: Friday, July 14, 2017 **17-1004-KAN**

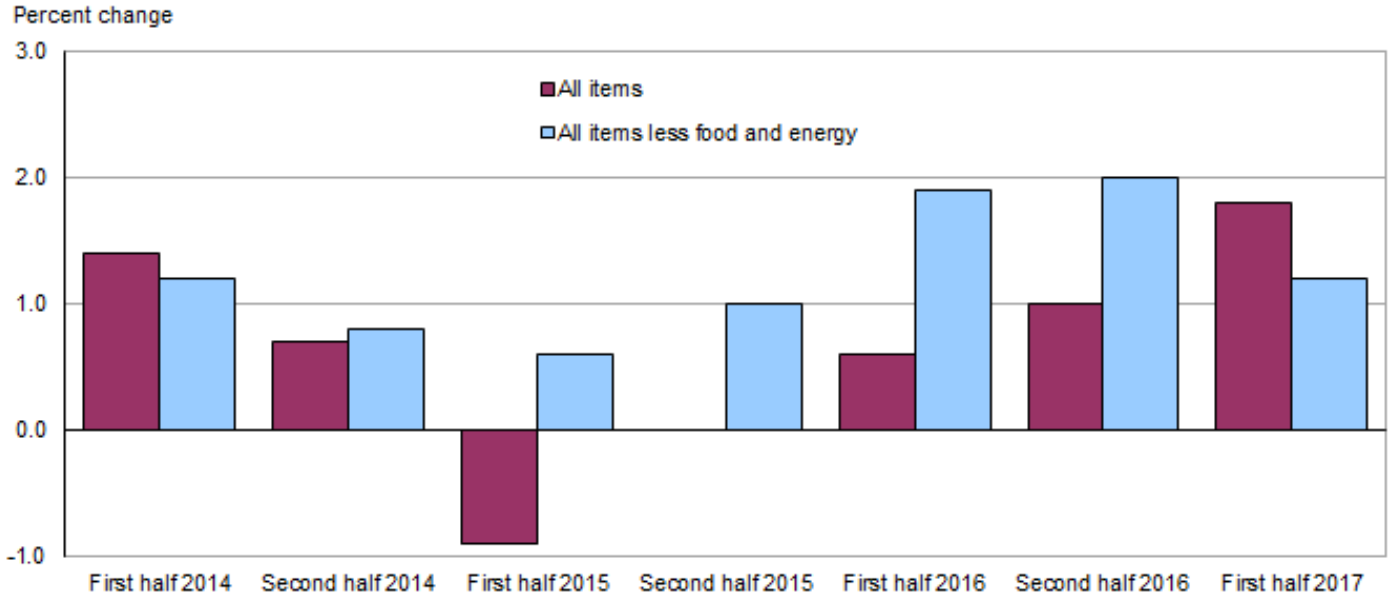
MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.
Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains
Media contact: (816) 285-7000

Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – First Half 2017

Prices increased 1.8 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area increased 1.8 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher shelter costs (2.6 percent) had the largest upward impact on the index, while rising energy prices (9.2 percent) also contributed to the advance. Education and communication costs registered the largest offsetting movement with a decline of 6.9 percent. The all items less food and energy index, which includes shelter, rose 1.2 percent over the year.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, St. Louis, first half 2014–first half 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.3 percent from first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017, after registering little change (-0.1 percent) in the same period one year ago. Costs for food at home turned up a modest 0.3 percent, while prices for food away from home advanced 2.6 percent for the 12 months ended with the first half 2017. During the same period one year ago, costs for food at home declined 1.4 percent and prices for food away from home rose 1.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, increased 9.2 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017, after decreasing 11.3 percent in the same period one year ago. Rising prices for gasoline (14.0 percent) were largely responsible for the rise in the energy component, though higher costs for utility (piped) gas service (9.1 percent) and electricity (2.5 percent) also contributed to the increase. In the same period one year ago, prices for gasoline fell 18.1 percent, utility (piped) gas service prices declined 11.1 percent, and electricity costs were down 1.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.2 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017, following an increase of 1.9 percent in the same period one year ago. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs were shelter (2.6 percent) and medical care (6.3 percent). In contrast, the index for education and communication (-6.9 percent) was among the components that registered lower prices over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 223.685 for the first half of 2017. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $223.69 in the first half of 2017. 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 2017 was 221.049. The CPI-W increased 1.5 percent from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017.

The Consumer Price Index for the Second Half of 2017 is scheduled to be released in January 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index will change to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in February 2018. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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 1st half 2017 from-	
	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016
Expenditure category					
All Items	219.792	222.357	223.685	1.8	0.6
All items (1967=100)	652.820	660.438	664.381		
Food and beverages	246.670	247.099	250.122	1.4	1.2
Food	246.030	246.273	249.190	1.3	1.2
Food at home	227.704	226.344	228.499	0.3	1.0
Food away from home	276.302	279.287	283.495	2.6	1.5
Alcoholic beverages	226.522	228.984	232.856	2.8	1.7
Housing	211.700	216.203	216.917	2.5	0.3
Shelter	247.917	251.360	254.321	2.6	1.2
Rent of primary residence(1)	224.959	227.178	230.141	2.3	1.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	256.958	262.060	263.260	2.5	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	256.958	262.060	263.260	2.5	0.5
Fuels and utilities	200.024	216.280	209.856	4.9	-3.0
Household energy	178.321	195.802	187.732	5.3	-4.1
Energy services(1)	182.239	200.287	191.124	4.9	-4.6
Electricity(1)	192.747	219.923	197.629	2.5	-10.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	138.714	141.849	151.397	9.1	6.7
Household furnishings and operations	120.658	121.307	119.652	-0.8	-1.4
Apparel	152.559	154.237	159.034	4.2	3.1
Transportation	181.623	181.137	184.218	1.4	1.7
Private transportation	180.755	181.081	183.845	1.7	1.5
Motor fuel	186.966	200.586	213.314	14.1	6.3
Gasoline (all types)	184.067	197.398	209.921	14.0	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	176.594	189.682	201.620	14.2	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	219.689	234.009	249.702	13.7	6.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	193.375	206.357	219.871	13.7	6.5
Medical Care	412.710	428.846	438.783	6.3	2.3
Recreation(5)	118.193	119.109	119.122	0.8	0.0
Education and communication(5)	139.237	137.008	129.616	-6.9	-5.4
Other goods and services	307.519	307.199	311.550	1.3	1.4
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	219.792	222.357	223.685	1.8	0.6
Commodities	182.727	182.983	185.259	1.4	1.2
Commodities less food & beverages	150.430	150.608	152.500	1.4	1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	196.996	200.139	206.891	5.0	3.4
Durables	106.524	104.675	103.114	-3.2	-1.5
Services	258.295	263.016	263.510	2.0	0.2
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	210.169	212.051	212.946	1.3	0.4
All items less shelter	211.756	214.023	214.759	1.4	0.3
Commodities less food	153.810	154.059	156.025	1.4	1.3
Nondurables	222.231	224.112	229.151	3.1	2.2
Nondurables less food	200.155	203.269	209.861	4.8	3.2
Services less rent of shelter(2)	275.960	282.066	279.986	1.5	-0.7
Services less medical care services	243.854	247.122	247.136	1.3	0.0
Energy	183.038	198.956	199.788	9.2	0.4
All items less energy	226.126	227.495	228.887	1.2	0.6
All items less food and energy	222.856	224.403	225.552	1.2	0.5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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 2017 from-	
	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016
Expenditure category					
All Items	217.752	220.082	221.049	1.5	0.4
All items (1967=100)	640.638	647.493	650.338		
Food and beverages	248.007	248.523	251.170	1.3	1.1
Food	247.810	248.068	250.548	1.1	1.0
Food at home	230.428	229.296	231.126	0.3	0.8
Food away from home	277.291	280.401	284.154	2.5	1.3
Alcoholic beverages	218.918	221.257	224.807	2.7	1.6
Housing	214.305	219.382	219.747	2.5	0.2
Shelter	248.531	252.094	254.749	2.5	1.1
Rent of primary residence(1)	224.959	227.178	230.141	2.3	1.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	235.410	240.084	241.184	2.5	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	235.410	240.084	241.184	2.5	0.5
Fuels and utilities	204.211	221.286	214.668	5.1	-3.0
Household energy	181.254	199.303	191.236	5.5	-4.0
Energy services(1)	186.006	204.933	194.793	4.7	-4.9
Electricity(1)	192.746	219.922	197.628	2.5	-10.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	138.714	141.849	151.397	9.1	6.7
Household furnishings and operations	112.872	113.773	112.403	-0.4	-1.2
Apparel	145.521	145.726	151.284	4.0	3.8
Transportation	184.337	184.120	186.858	1.4	1.5
Private transportation	182.842	183.116	185.649	1.5	1.4
Motor fuel	186.719	200.405	213.125	14.1	6.3
Gasoline (all types)	184.067	197.398	209.922	14.0	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	176.586	189.673	201.610	14.2	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	219.689	234.009	249.702	13.7	6.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	193.384	206.366	219.882	13.7	6.5
Medical Care	415.611	432.039	441.201	6.2	2.1
Recreation(5)	120.146	120.351	120.476	0.3	0.1
Education and communication(5)	132.685	130.503	122.853	-7.4	-5.9
Other goods and services	328.892	328.887	335.107	1.9	1.9
Commodity and Service Group					
All Items	217.752	220.082	221.049	1.5	0.4
Commodities	185.443	185.765	187.986	1.4	1.2
Commodities less food & beverages	154.357	154.589	156.573	1.4	1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	192.428	195.737	202.547	5.3	3.5
Durables	115.185	113.249	111.701	-3.0	-1.4
Services	256.547	261.116	260.722	1.6	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes:					
All items less medical care	209.672	211.471	212.131	1.2	0.3
All items less shelter	209.064	211.009	211.436	1.1	0.2
Commodities less food	157.107	157.439	159.494	1.5	1.3
Nondurables	219.950	221.891	226.663	3.1	2.2
Nondurables less food	194.836	198.037	204.491	5.0	3.3
Services less rent of shelter(2)	254.055	259.359	256.001	0.8	-1.3
Services less medical care services	242.689	246.006	245.179	1.0	-0.3
Energy	180.811	196.685	197.767	9.4	0.6
All items less energy	224.187	225.102	226.067	0.8	0.4
All items less food and energy	219.255	220.287	220.973	0.8	0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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.