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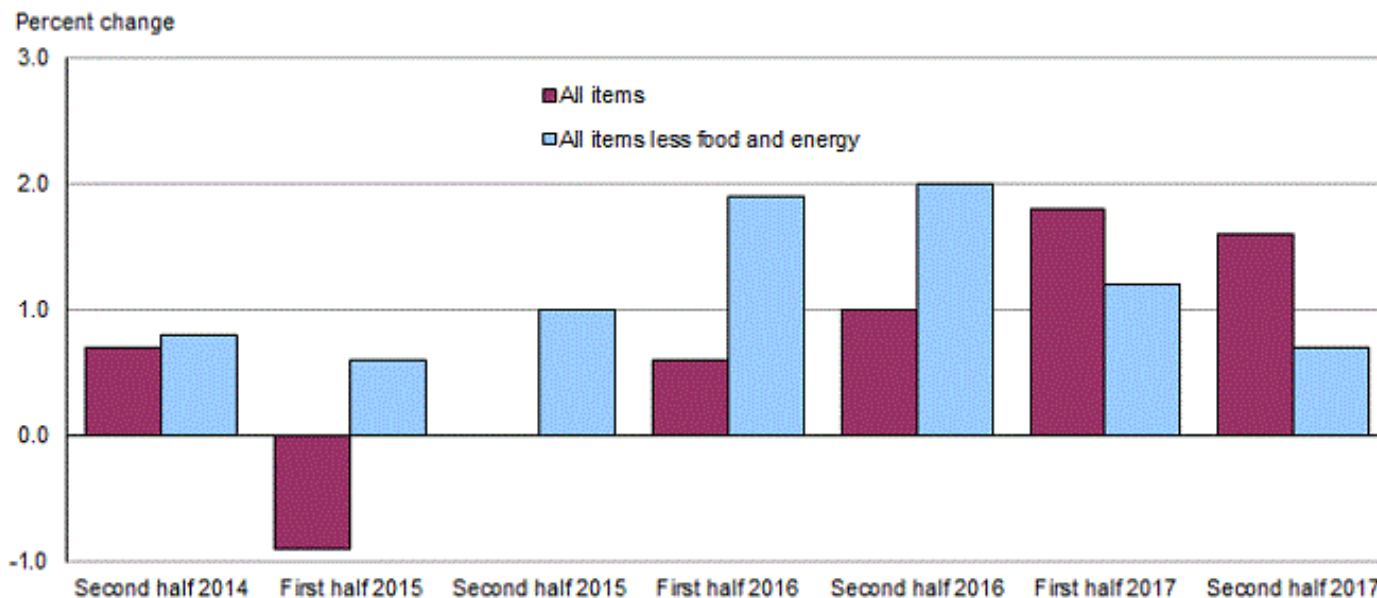
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## Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – Second Half 2017

**Prices increased 1.6 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area increased 1.6 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that the increase was broad based with energy costs rising 9.8 percent and food prices up 2.1 percent. The all items less food and energy index, which includes shelter, rose 0.7 percent over the year.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices rose 2.1 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017, compared to a 0.7-percent decrease in the same period one year ago. Costs for food at home were up 1.8 percent and prices for food away from home increased 2.7 percent. During the same period one year ago, these indexes declined 2.5 percent and rose 2.0 percent, respectively.

## **Energy**

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, turned up 9.8 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017 after decreasing 5.4 percent in the same period one year ago. Costs for utility (piped) gas service rose 16.0 percent, gasoline prices were up 10.2 percent and electricity prices advanced 5.5 percent over the year. In the same period one year ago, prices for utility (piped) gas service decreased 3.6 percent, electricity costs declined 5.5 percent and gasoline prices were down 5.8 percent.

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

The index for all items less food and energy rose a moderate 0.7 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017, following an increase of 2.0 percent in the same period one year ago. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs were shelter (1.0 percent) and medical care (2.8 percent). In contrast, the index for education and communication (-4.5 percent) was among the components that registered lower prices over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 225.809 for the second half of 2017. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$225.81 in the second 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 second half of 2017 was 223.583. The CPI-W increased 1.6 percent from the second half of 2016 to the second half of 2017.

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**The Consumer Price Index for February 2018 is scheduled to be released on March 13, 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](http://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](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 2nd half 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	222.357	223.685	225.809	1.6	0.9
All items (1967=100) .....	660.438	664.381	670.688		
Food and beverages .....	247.099	250.122	252.180	2.1	0.8
Food .....	246.273	249.190	251.548	2.1	0.9
Food at home .....	226.344	228.499	230.324	1.8	0.8
Food away from home.....	279.287	283.495	286.754	2.7	1.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	228.984	232.856	231.333	1.0	-0.7
Housing .....	216.203	216.917	219.925	1.7	1.4
Shelter .....	251.360	254.321	253.852	1.0	-0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	227.178	230.141	232.463	2.3	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	262.060	263.260	263.917	0.7	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2) ..	262.060	263.260	263.917	0.7	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	216.280	209.856	233.984	8.2	11.5
Household energy .....	195.802	187.732	214.283	9.4	14.1
Energy services(1) .....	200.287	191.124	218.236	9.0	14.2
Electricity(1).....	219.923	197.629	232.024	5.5	17.4
Utility (pipd) gas service(1).....	141.849	151.397	164.535	16.0	8.7
Household furnishings and operations .....	121.307	119.652	120.248	-0.9	0.5
Apparel .....	154.237	159.034	158.311	2.6	-0.5
Transportation .....	181.137	184.218	185.550	2.4	0.7
Private transportation .....	181.081	183.845	185.939	2.7	1.1
Motor fuel .....	200.586	213.314	221.153	10.3	3.7
Gasoline (all types).....	197.398	209.921	217.593	10.2	3.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	189.682	201.620	209.139	10.3	3.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	234.009	249.702	258.668	10.5	3.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....	206.357	219.871	227.144	10.1	3.3
Medical Care .....	428.846	438.783	441.048	2.8	0.5
Recreation(5).....	119.109	119.122	118.748	-0.3	-0.3
Education and communication(5).....	137.008	129.616	130.793	-4.5	0.9
Other goods and services .....	307.199	311.550	319.902	4.1	2.7
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	222.357	223.685	225.809	1.6	0.9
Commodities .....	182.983	185.259	186.465	1.9	0.7
Commodities less food & beverages.....	150.608	152.500	153.331	1.8	0.5
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	200.139	206.891	210.987	5.4	2.0
Durables .....	104.675	103.114	101.662	-2.9	-1.4
Services.....	263.016	263.510	266.514	1.3	1.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care .....	212.051	212.946	215.063	1.4	1.0
All items less shelter.....	214.023	214.759	217.868	1.8	1.4
Commodities less food .....	154.059	156.025	156.791	1.8	0.5
Nondurables .....	224.112	229.151	232.313	3.7	1.4
Nondurables less food.....	203.269	209.861	213.591	5.1	1.8
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	282.066	279.986	286.896	1.7	2.5
Services less medical care services.....	247.122	247.136	250.666	1.4	1.4
Energy .....	198.956	199.788	218.438	9.8	9.3
All items less energy .....	227.495	228.887	229.517	0.9	0.3
All items less food and energy .....	224.403	225.552	225.908	0.7	0.2

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 2nd half 2017 from-	
	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	2nd half 2017	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	220.082	221.049	223.583	1.6	1.1
All items (1967=100) .....	647.493	650.338	657.793		
Food and beverages .....	248.523	251.170	253.229	1.9	0.8
Food .....	248.068	250.548	253.118	2.0	1.0
Food at home .....	229.296	231.126	233.404	1.8	1.0
Food away from home.....	280.401	284.154	287.257	2.4	1.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	221.257	224.807	222.874	0.7	-0.9
Housing .....	219.382	219.747	224.069	2.1	2.0
Shelter .....	252.094	254.749	255.082	1.2	0.1
Rent of primary residence(1).....	227.178	230.141	232.463	2.3	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	240.084	241.184	241.785	0.7	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2) ..	240.084	241.184	241.785	0.7	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	221.286	214.668	240.008	8.5	11.8
Household energy .....	199.303	191.236	218.594	9.7	14.3
Energy services(1) .....	204.933	194.793	222.823	8.7	14.4
Electricity(1).....	219.922	197.628	232.022	5.5	17.4
Utility (pipd) gas service(1).....	141.849	151.397	164.536	16.0	8.7
Household furnishings and operations .....	113.773	112.403	113.429	-0.3	0.9
Apparel .....	145.726	151.284	148.831	2.1	-1.6
Transportation .....	184.120	186.858	188.424	2.3	0.8
Private transportation .....	183.116	185.649	187.670	2.5	1.1
Motor fuel .....	200.405	213.125	221.004	10.3	3.7
Gasoline (all types).....	197.398	209.922	217.593	10.2	3.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	189.673	201.610	209.130	10.3	3.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	234.009	249.702	258.668	10.5	3.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....	206.366	219.882	227.155	10.1	3.3
Medical Care .....	432.039	441.201	442.030	2.3	0.2
Recreation(5).....	120.351	120.476	120.160	-0.2	-0.3
Education and communication(5).....	130.503	122.853	124.253	-4.8	1.1
Other goods and services .....	328.887	335.107	345.181	5.0	3.0
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	220.082	221.049	223.583	1.6	1.1
Commodities .....	185.765	187.986	189.031	1.8	0.6
Commodities less food & beverages.....	154.589	156.573	157.166	1.7	0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	195.737	202.547	205.568	5.0	1.5
Durables .....	113.249	111.701	110.550	-2.4	-1.0
Services.....	261.116	260.722	264.929	1.5	1.6
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care .....	211.471	212.131	214.720	1.5	1.2
All items less shelter.....	211.009	211.436	214.697	1.7	1.5
Commodities less food .....	157.439	159.494	159.964	1.6	0.3
Nondurables .....	221.891	226.663	229.214	3.3	1.1
Nondurables less food.....	198.037	204.491	206.985	4.5	1.2
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	259.359	256.001	263.948	1.8	3.1
Services less medical care services.....	246.006	245.179	249.867	1.6	1.9
Energy .....	196.685	197.767	216.244	9.9	9.3
All items less energy .....	225.102	226.067	226.933	0.8	0.4
All items less food and energy .....	220.287	220.973	221.524	0.6	0.2

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.
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- (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.