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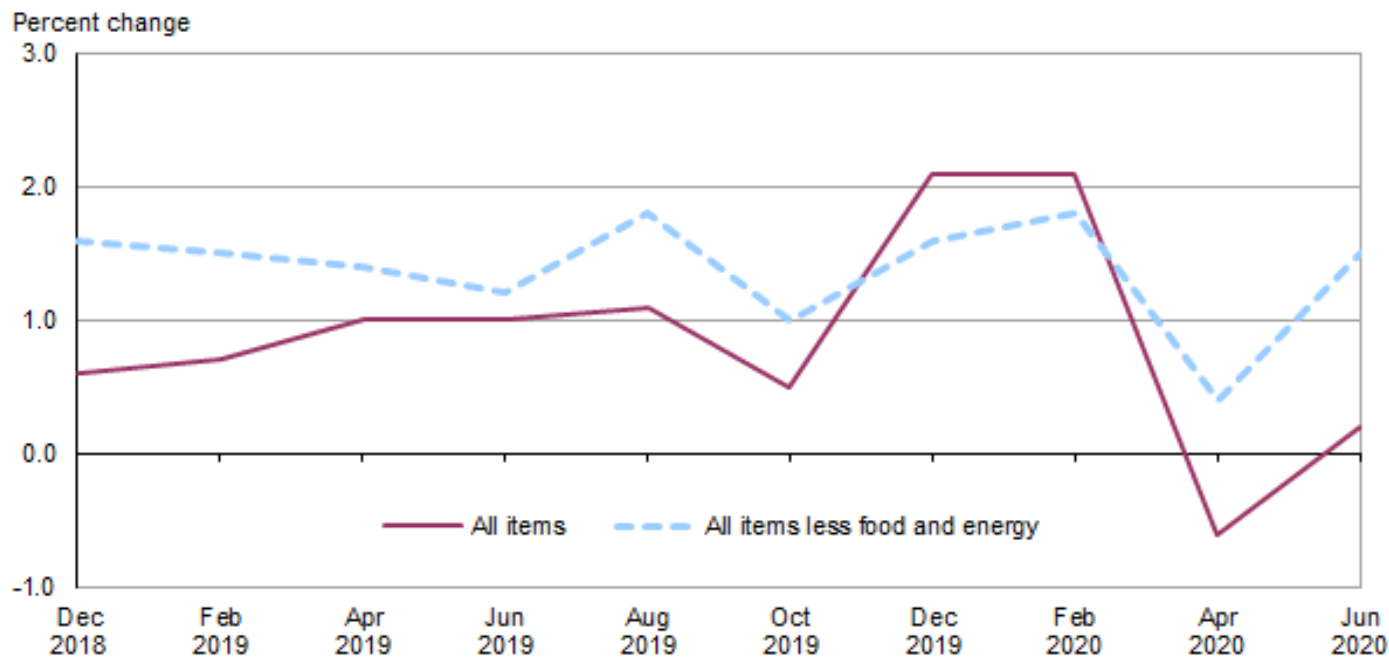
### Consumer Price Index, St. Louis area – June 2020

**Area prices were up 1.7 percent over the past two months, up 0.2 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the St. Louis area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.7 percent for the two months ending in June 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that the June increase was mainly influenced by higher prices for electricity. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U crept up 0.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.5 percent over the year. Food prices rose 0.8 percent. Energy prices dropped 12.6 percent, led by decreases in prices for gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, December 2018–June 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices increased 0.9 percent for the two months ending in June. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home increased 1.7 percent and prices for food at home advanced 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 0.8 percent. Prices for food at home increased 7.3 percent since a year ago, while prices for food away from home decreased 6.6 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index jumped 13.9 percent for the two months ending in June. A seasonal hike of 32.1 percent in electricity prices led the increase. Prices for gasoline also rose, up 4.7 percent, while prices for natural gas service decreased 1.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices dropped 12.6 percent over the year, led by a 26.0-percent decrease in prices for gasoline. Prices paid for natural gas service decreased 3.8 percent, and prices for electricity decreased 1.3 percent during the past year.

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

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.9 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for shelter (0.9 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (21.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for used cars and trucks (-1.8 percent) and education and communication (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (1.3 percent) and recreation (5.9 percent). Price decreases for apparel (-10.0 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (-2.5 percent) partly offset the increases.

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**The August 2020 Consumer Price Index for the St. Louis area is scheduled to be released on Friday, September 11, 2020.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on June 2020 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in June was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.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 93 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

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 cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The St. Louis, MO-IL, area covered in this release includes Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties in Illinois; and 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 and percent changes for selected periods, St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

| Item and Group   | Indexes      |             |              | Percent change from - |              |             |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
|  | Apr.<br>2020 | May<br>2020 | Jun.<br>2020 | Jun.<br>2019          | Apr.<br>2020 | May<br>2020 |
| All items .....  | 229.592      | -           | 233.518      | 0.2                   | 1.7          | -           |
| All items (1967 = 100) .....                           | 681.925      | -           | 693.586      |                       |              |             |
| Food and beverages .....                               | 264.441      | -           | 266.637      | 1.5                   | 0.8          | -           |
| Food .....   | 262.473      | -           | 264.905      | 0.8                   | 0.9          | -           |
| Food at home .....                                     | 247.438      | 248.251     | 248.362      | 7.3                   | 0.4          | 0.0         |
| Cereals and bakery products .....                      | 222.120      | -           | 225.792      | 4.7                   | 1.7          | -           |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....                   | 261.249      | -           | 275.916      | 12.0                  | 5.6          | -           |
| Dairy and related products .....                       | 176.989      | -           | 162.693      | 3.1                   | -8.1         | -           |
| Fruits and vegetables .....                            | 391.707      | -           | 387.362      | 8.1                   | -1.1         | -           |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) ..... | 174.294      | -           | 176.045      | 3.2                   | 1.0          | -           |
| Other food at home .....                               | 241.424      | -           | 239.519      | 6.2                   | -0.8         | -           |
| Food away from home .....                              | 287.825      | -           | 292.707      | -6.6                  | 1.7          | -           |
| Alcoholic beverages .....                              | 256.318      | -           | 255.861      | 10.1                  | -0.2         | -           |
| Housing .....  | 225.619      | -           | 231.795      | 1.5                   | 2.7          | -           |
| Shelter .....  | 268.293      | 268.182     | 270.586      | 1.3                   | 0.9          | 0.9         |
| Rent of primary residence .....                        | 250.669      | 251.318     | 253.340      | 4.1                   | 1.1          | 0.8         |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) ....          | 284.974      | 284.415     | 285.596      | 2.8                   | 0.2          | 0.4         |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) .....  | 284.974      | 284.415     | 285.596      | 2.8                   | 0.2          | 0.4         |
| Fuels and utilities .....                              | 208.530      | -           | 239.319      | 0.0                   | 14.8         | -           |
| Household energy .....                                 | 176.061      | 175.724     | 213.260      | -1.5                  | 21.1         | 21.4        |
| Energy services .....                                  | 177.774      | 177.462     | 216.019      | -1.6                  | 21.5         | 21.7        |
| Electricity .....                                      | 176.863      | 176.914     | 233.631      | -1.3                  | 32.1         | 32.1        |
| Utility (piped) gas service .....                      | 147.405      | 146.505     | 145.905      | -3.8                  | -1.0         | -0.4        |
| Household furnishings and operations .....             | 121.305      | -           | 124.462      | 5.7                   | 2.6          | -           |
| Apparel .....  | 123.294      | -           | 123.052      | -10.0                 | -0.2         | -           |
| Transportation .....                                   | 176.382      | -           | 180.441      | -7.1                  | 2.3          | -           |
| Private transportation .....                           | 179.177      | -           | 183.322      | -6.1                  | 2.3          | -           |
| New and used motor vehicles(3) .....                   | 91.069       | -           | 91.295       | -2.5                  | 0.2          | -           |
| New vehicles(1) .....                                  | 205.777      | -           | 205.445      | -0.8                  | -0.2         | -           |
| Used cars and trucks(1) .....                          | 299.633      | -           | 294.161      | -3.3                  | -1.8         | -           |
| Motor fuel .....                                       | 172.780      | 163.049     | 180.472      | -25.9                 | 4.5          | 10.7        |
| Gasoline (all types) .....                             | 169.365      | 159.786     | 177.308      | -26.0                 | 4.7          | 11.0        |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....                    | 161.538      | 152.285     | 169.408      | -26.4                 | 4.9          | 11.2        |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....                | 212.506      | 199.273     | 219.200      | -23.3                 | 3.2          | 10.0        |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....                    | 187.281      | 179.313     | 193.930      | -22.7                 | 3.6          | 8.2         |
| Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....                       | 493.801      | -           | 599.540      | 3.6                   | 21.4         | -           |
| Medical care .....                                     | 471.090      | -           | 472.085      | 1.6                   | 0.2          | -           |
| Recreation(3) .....                                    | 120.785      | -           | 121.015      | 5.9                   | 0.2          | -           |
| Education and communication(3) .....                   | 141.713      | -           | 141.340      | 3.7                   | -0.3         | -           |
| Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...       | 1,259.675    | -           | 1,257.733    | 3.0                   | -0.2         | -           |
| Other goods and services .....                         | 335.859      | -           | 342.779      | 1.9                   | 2.1          | -           |
| <b>Commodity and service group</b>                     |              |             |              |                       |              |             |
| Commodities .....                                      | 182.983      | -           | 184.521      | -2.1                  | 0.8          | -           |
| Commodities less food and beverages .....              | 144.309      | -           | 145.531      | -4.4                  | 0.8          | -           |
| Nondurables less food and beverages .....              | 189.765      | -           | 192.594      | -8.6                  | 1.5          | -           |
| Durables .....   | 100.573      | -           | 100.812      | 0.8                   | 0.2          | -           |
| Services .....   | 277.324      | -           | 283.496      | 1.6                   | 2.2          | -           |
| <b>Special aggregate indexes</b>                       |              |             |              |                       |              |             |
| All items less shelter .....                           | 218.064      | -           | 222.646      | -0.2                  | 2.1          | -           |
| All items less medical care .....                      | 217.520      | -           | 221.568      | 0.0                   | 1.9          | -           |
| Commodities less food .....                            | 148.742      | -           | 149.922      | -3.7                  | 0.8          | -           |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

| Item and Group                           | Indexes      |             |              | Percent change from - |              |             |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
|  | Apr.<br>2020 | May<br>2020 | Jun.<br>2020 | Jun.<br>2019          | Apr.<br>2020 | May<br>2020 |
| Nondurables .....                        | 227.032      | -           | 229.568      | -3.2                  | 1.1          | -           |
| Nondurables less food.....               | 195.692      | -           | 198.276      | -7.1                  | 1.3          | -           |
| Services less rent of shelter(2).....    | 294.159      | -           | 304.639      | 2.1                   | 3.6          | -           |
| Services less medical care services..... | 259.374      | -           | 265.800      | 1.4                   | 2.5          | -           |
| Energy .....                             | 175.794      | 171.288     | 200.155      | -12.6                 | 13.9         | 16.9        |
| All items less energy .....              | 237.658      | -           | 239.826      | 1.4                   | 0.9          | -           |
| All items less food and energy .....     | 233.609      | -           | 235.734      | 1.5                   | 0.9          | -           |

**Footnotes**

(1) Indexes on an March 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Index on a December 1993=100.

- Data not available.