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## **Consumer Price Index, St. Louis Area – February 2021**

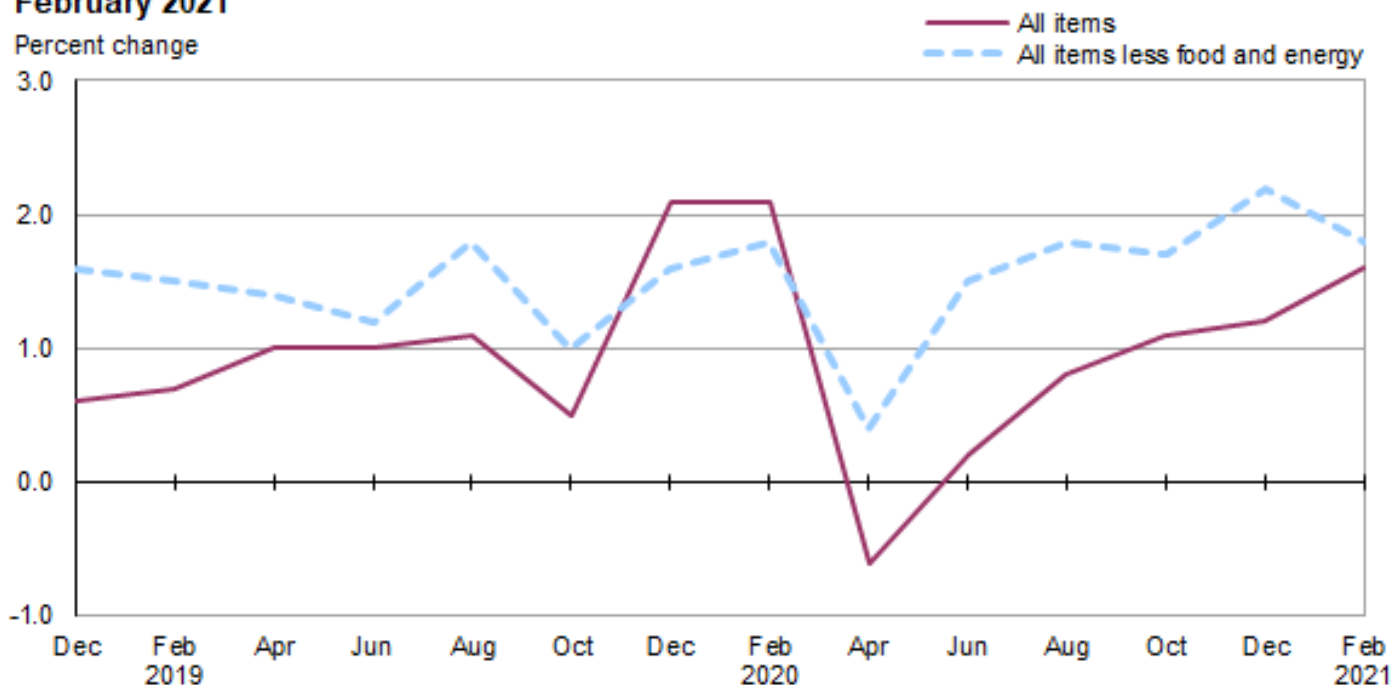
**Area prices up 1.2 percent over the past two months, up 1.6 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the St. Louis area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.2 percent for the two months ending in February 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that the February increase was most influenced by higher prices for energy and for all items less food and energy. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.6 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent over the year and energy prices increased 2.7 percent. In contrast, food prices fell 0.4 percent during the period. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, December 2018–February 2021**

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## **Food**

Food prices increased 0.9 percent for the two months ending in February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 1.5 percent and prices for food away from home crept up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices decreased 0.4 percent. Prices for food away from home declined 3.1 percent, while prices for food at home rose 1.7 percent since a year ago.

## **Energy**

The energy index rose 8.9 percent for the two months ending in February. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (17.7 percent). Prices for electricity also advanced, 1.7 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 1.9 percent for the same period.

Energy prices rose 2.7 percent over the year, led by to higher prices for gasoline (4.9 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service also advanced, up 1.7 percent, and prices for electricity increased 0.5 percent during the past year.

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

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for medical care (3.1 percent) and apparel (7.1 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for shelter (-0.7 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent. Components contributing the most to the increase included shelter (2.0 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (6.7 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-8.1 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-10.4 percent).

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**The April 2021 Consumer Price Index for the St. Louis area is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on February 2021 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 February 2021 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 U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of

the total U.S. 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

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 individuals with sensory impairments 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 -		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
All items .....	234.239	-	237.018	1.6	1.2	-
All items (1967 = 100) .....	695.730	-	703.982			
Food and beverages .....	264.633	-	266.897	0.3	0.9	-
Food .....	261.731	-	263.996	-0.4	0.9	-
Food at home .....	242.851	245.983	246.403	1.7	1.5	0.2
Cereals and bakery products .....	217.572	-	219.808	2.2	1.0	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	260.438	-	263.171	6.8	1.0	-
Dairy and related products .....	163.154	-	154.807	-7.1	-5.1	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	383.595	-	396.586	-5.0	3.4	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	172.618	-	177.135	0.1	2.6	-
Other food at home .....	238.417	-	244.072	5.3	2.4	-
Food away from home .....	293.302	-	293.493	-3.1	0.1	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	266.072	-	268.087	8.7	0.8	-
Housing .....	232.753	-	231.725	2.2	-0.4	-
Shelter .....	277.182	274.276	275.314	2.0	-0.7	0.4
Rent of primary residence .....	255.815	255.863	256.277	2.2	0.2	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) ....	289.952	289.655	289.961	2.3	0.0	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) .....	289.952	289.655	289.961	2.3	0.0	0.1
Fuels and utilities .....	213.328	-	215.767	2.7	1.1	-
Household energy .....	176.471	176.504	179.564	0.9	1.8	1.7
Energy services .....	178.127	178.127	181.253	0.9	1.8	1.8
Electricity .....	176.544	176.544	179.490	0.5	1.7	1.7
Utility (piped) gas service .....	148.890	148.890	151.771	1.7	1.9	1.9
Household furnishings and operations .....	125.038	-	124.365	3.0	-0.5	-
Apparel .....	124.607	-	133.411	-8.1	7.1	-
Transportation .....	185.199	-	191.500	2.0	3.4	-
Private transportation .....	188.176	-	195.062	3.4	3.7	-
New and used motor vehicles(3) .....	96.331	-	96.793	6.7	0.5	-
New vehicles(1) .....	212.786	-	217.504	5.9	2.2	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	324.217	-	322.511	9.4	-0.5	-
Motor fuel .....	185.270	203.297	217.741	4.7	17.5	7.1
Gasoline (all types) .....	182.007	199.889	214.186	4.9	17.7	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	174.100	191.580	205.660	5.1	18.1	7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....	224.839	246.059	258.595	4.4	15.0	5.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	196.190	210.615	223.748	2.6	14.0	6.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	529.875	-	535.116	-10.4	1.0	-
Medical care .....	464.677	-	478.977	2.2	3.1	-
Recreation(3) .....	120.045	-	122.357	1.8	1.9	-
Education and communication(3) .....	144.111	-	146.235	2.3	1.5	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,265.112	-	1,266.622	0.6	0.1	-
Other goods and services .....	328.896	-	334.102	0.2	1.6	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
Commodities .....	186.153	-	190.480	1.3	2.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	148.328	-	153.122	2.0	3.2	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	193.351	-	205.000	0.1	6.0	-
Durables .....	104.227	-	104.886	3.9	0.6	-
Services .....	283.418	-	284.875	1.7	0.5	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less shelter .....	221.193	-	225.733	1.4	2.1	-
All items less medical care .....	222.666	-	224.898	1.5	1.0	-
Commodities less food .....	152.964	-	157.708	2.3	3.1	-

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 -		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Nondurables .....	228.987	-	236.134	0.2	3.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	199.772	-	210.716	0.9	5.5	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	297.344	-	302.413	1.4	1.7	-
Services less medical care services.....	266.207	-	266.421	1.5	0.1	-
Energy .....	181.566	189.581	197.712	2.7	8.9	4.3
All items less energy .....	242.273	-	243.904	1.5	0.7	-
All items less food and energy .....	238.995	-	240.531	1.8	0.6	-

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.