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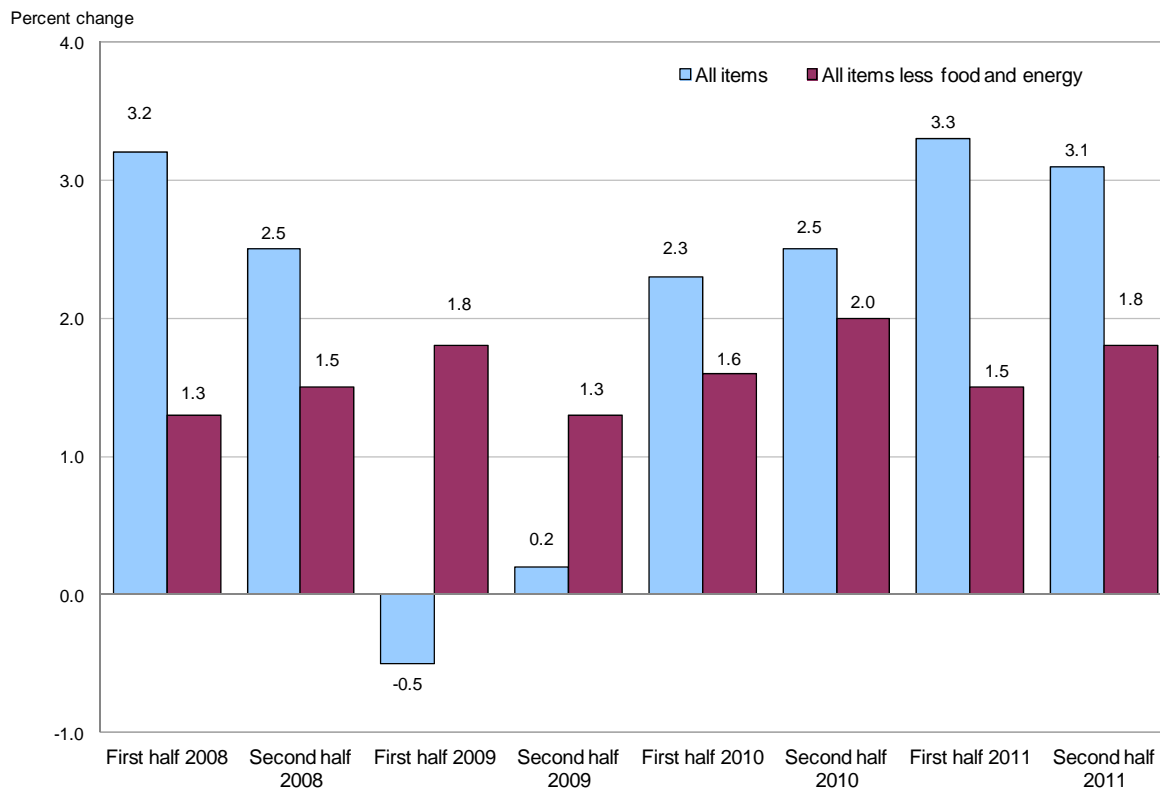
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR ST. LOUIS
Prices increased 3.1 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area rose 3.1 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the increase was broad-based with higher prices for motor fuel and shelter having the largest upward impact on the index. Costs for energy rose 14.2 percent, food prices were up 3.7 percent, and the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.8 percent.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent changes in consumer price indexes, St. Louis, first half 2008–second half 2011



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices rose 3.7 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011 following a 2.5-percent increase in the same period one year ago. Costs for food at home advanced 5.7 percent, the third largest increase since the recession of 1990-91, after rising 1.4 percent from the second half of 2009 to the second half of 2010. Costs for food away from home were up 0.7 percent over the year—the smallest increase since 2003.

Energy

The energy index advanced 14.2 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011. A 22.7-percent jump in motor fuel prices led the increase with a decline in the most recent six-month period not enough to counter the rise that occurred during the earlier half of the year. Electricity prices followed their typical pattern for the area and fell in the first half of the year but rose in the second half resulting in a 7.6-percent gain. Utility (piped) gas service costs were down 1.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011. Higher costs for shelter, up 2.2 percent, led the advance. Other components that contributed to the increase included apparel (5.2 percent), medical care (2.7 percent), and education and communication (2.5 percent). In contrast, the indexes for recreation and for household furnishings and operations decreased 1.6 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively, over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 210.966 for the second half of 2011. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$210.97 in the second half of 2011. 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 2011 was 211.537. The CPI-W increased 3.6 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011.

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 25,000 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., Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties in Illinois; and Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren, and Washington Counties and St. Louis City in Missouri.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Mountain-Plains Information Office at (816) 285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.
Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number (Federal Relay Service):
1-800-877-8339.

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 2011 from—	
	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	2nd half 2011	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011
Expenditure category					
All items	204.528	208.586	210.966	3.1	1.1
All items (1967=100)	607.482	619.534	626.605	-	-
Food and beverages	215.528	217.627	223.076	3.5	2.5
Food	213.650	215.813	221.483	3.7	2.6
Food at home	201.339	204.553	212.896	5.7	4.1
Food away from home	233.684	234.196	235.345	.7	.5
Alcoholic beverages	218.233	219.048	220.316	1.0	.6
Housing	192.502	193.431	196.781	2.2	1.7
Shelter	217.152	219.639	221.919	2.2	1.0
Rent of primary residence ¹	197.106	200.001	201.612	2.3	.8
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	226.097	228.555	230.619	2.0	.9
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	226.097	228.555	230.619	2.0	.9
Fuels and utilities	196.649	196.664	207.664	5.6	5.6
Household energy	183.393	172.089	192.236	4.8	11.7
Energy services ¹	188.148	175.790	196.814	4.6	12.0
Electricity ¹	181.640	163.341	195.395	7.6	19.6
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	169.067	169.996	166.670	-1.4	-2.0
Household furnishings and operations	130.429	127.885	127.532	-2.2	-.3
Apparel	138.356	146.122	145.500	5.2	-.4
Transportation	185.383	200.219	198.548	7.1	-.8
Private transportation	186.482	201.261	199.352	6.9	-.9
Motor fuel	254.627	328.092	312.478	22.7	-4.8
Gasoline (all types)	250.954	323.654	307.417	22.5	-5.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	243.671	315.661	299.537	22.9	-5.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	288.665	368.964	350.570	21.4	-5.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	246.188	311.505	297.745	20.9	-4.4
Medical care	367.143	370.708	377.000	2.7	1.7
Recreation ⁵	117.195	114.844	115.271	-1.6	.4
Education and communication ⁵	136.409	137.648	139.803	2.5	1.6
Other goods and services	297.921	301.051	302.680	1.6	.5
Commodity and service group					
All items	204.528	208.586	210.966	3.1	1.1
Commodities	176.194	183.952	185.082	5.0	.6
Commodities less food and beverages	154.973	164.815	164.149	5.9	-.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	204.439	224.752	221.510	8.4	-1.4
Durables	109.375	109.501	111.235	1.7	1.6
Services	234.492	235.258	238.829	1.8	1.5
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	196.440	200.489	202.694	3.2	1.1
All items less shelter	202.178	206.918	209.233	3.5	1.1
Commodities less food	158.008	167.728	167.102	5.8	-.4
Nondurables	210.473	222.478	223.227	6.1	.3
Nondurables less food	206.588	226.098	223.051	8.0	-1.3
Services less rent of shelter ²	259.526	258.190	262.836	1.3	1.8
Services less medical care services	222.386	223.041	226.353	1.8	1.5
Energy	213.986	240.127	244.408	14.2	1.8
All items less energy	206.557	208.259	210.797	2.1	1.2
All items less food and energy	205.642	207.266	209.264	1.8	1.0

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.

- Data not available.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban 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 2011 from—	
	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	2nd half 2011	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011
Expenditure category					
All items	204.218	209.150	211.537	3.6	1.1
All items (1967=100)	600.821	615.331	622.354	-	-
Food and beverages	215.903	218.153	223.794	3.7	2.6
Food	214.934	217.230	223.092	3.8	2.7
Food at home	202.067	205.393	213.867	5.8	4.1
Food away from home	235.113	235.468	236.611	.6	.5
Alcoholic beverages	206.436	207.758	209.478	1.5	.8
Housing	195.226	195.893	199.647	2.3	1.9
Shelter	218.024	220.533	222.607	2.1	.9
Rent of primary residence ¹	197.106	200.001	201.612	2.3	.8
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	207.137	209.389	211.280	2.0	.9
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	207.137	209.389	211.280	2.0	.9
Fuels and utilities	200.053	199.955	211.506	5.7	5.8
Household energy	185.164	173.802	194.337	5.0	11.8
Energy services ¹	190.475	177.811	199.378	4.7	12.1
Electricity ¹	181.638	163.340	195.394	7.6	19.6
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	169.067	169.997	166.672	-1.4	-2.0
Household furnishings and operations	123.500	119.665	120.522	-2.4	.7
Apparel	141.975	151.952	149.119	5.0	-1.9
Transportation	189.382	206.267	204.817	8.2	-.7
Private transportation	189.006	205.867	204.284	8.1	-.8
Motor fuel	254.660	328.129	312.527	22.7	-4.8
Gasoline (all types)	250.955	323.655	307.417	22.5	-5.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	243.660	315.646	299.523	22.9	-5.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	288.665	368.964	350.570	21.4	-5.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	246.200	311.520	297.759	20.9	-4.4
Medical care	367.410	370.392	378.017	2.9	2.1
Recreation ⁵	117.940	117.534	118.237	.3	.6
Education and communication ⁵	133.114	134.143	134.971	1.4	.6
Other goods and services	308.796	311.307	313.593	1.6	.7
Commodity and service group					
All items	204.218	209.150	211.537	3.6	1.1
Commodities	180.955	189.814	191.122	5.6	.7
Commodities less food and beverages	161.962	173.657	172.980	6.8	-.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	208.072	231.284	226.857	9.0	-1.9
Durables	117.340	117.468	120.609	2.8	2.7
Services	232.886	233.846	237.410	1.9	1.5
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	197.481	202.470	204.654	3.6	1.1
All items less shelter	201.214	207.065	209.471	4.1	1.2
Commodities less food	164.226	175.705	175.091	6.6	-.3
Nondurables	211.883	225.153	225.502	6.4	.2
Nondurables less food	208.846	230.970	226.855	8.6	-1.8
Services less rent of shelter ²	238.603	237.767	242.337	1.6	1.9
Services less medical care services	221.334	222.239	225.446	1.9	1.4
Energy	214.860	242.974	246.479	14.7	1.4
All items less energy	205.491	207.476	210.120	2.3	1.3
All items less food and energy	203.406	205.325	207.308	1.9	1.0

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.

- Data not available.