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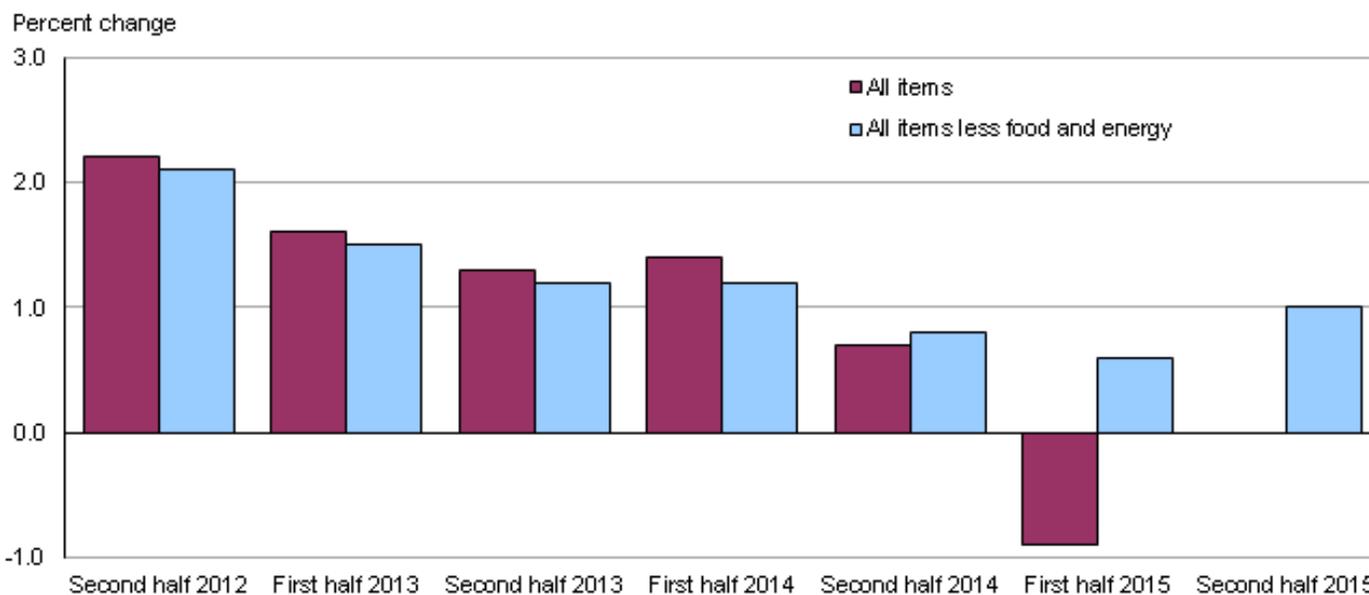
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## **Consumer Price Index, St. Louis – Second Half 2015**

**Prices were unchanged from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area was unchanged from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher shelter costs had the largest upward impact on the index, while lower motor fuel prices influenced the index downward. Energy costs fell 12.0 percent, food prices advanced 1.3 percent, and the all items less food and energy index rose 1.0 percent over the year.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, St. Louis, second half 2012–second half 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

Food prices rose 1.3 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015 led by a 2.8-percent rise in costs for food away from home. Prices for food at home also contributed to the increase with a gain of 0.5 percent. During the same period one year ago, these indexes rose 5.4 and 2.4 percent, respectively.

## **Energy**

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, decreased 12.0 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015. All of the decline occurred during the first half of the period with prices rebounding slightly in the most recent half. Falling prices for motor fuel (-25.2 percent) were largely responsible for lower energy costs. The index for utility (piped) gas service, down 8.6 percent, also contributed to the decrease. In contrast, prices for electricity advanced 7.6 percent over the year.

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

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.0 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015. Among the expenditure categories posting higher costs were shelter (2.0 percent), medical care (1.0 percent) and recreation (1.2 percent). In contrast, the index for other goods and services (-1.5 percent) was among the components that registered lower prices over the year.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 220.100 for the second half of 2015. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$220.10 in the second half of 2015. 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 2015 was 218.965. The CPI-W decreased 0.2 percent from the second half of 2014 to the second half of 2015.

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**The Consumer Price Index for the First Half of 2016 is scheduled to be released on July 15, 2016.**

## **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: 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 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	219.994	218.543	220.100	0.0	0.7
All items (1967=100).....	653.419	649.109	653.732		
Food and beverages.....	245.947	246.906	248.553	1.1	0.7
Food.....	244.783	246.281	248.015	1.3	0.7
Food at home.....	231.083	230.911	232.222	0.5	0.6
Food away from home.....	266.488	271.495	273.942	2.8	0.9
Alcoholic beverages.....	234.548	228.032	228.278	-2.7	0.1
Housing.....	208.167	208.155	212.305	2.0	2.0
Shelter.....	238.199	240.275	243.064	2.0	1.2
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	215.472	218.026	222.150	3.1	1.9
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	247.253	248.729	252.310	2.0	1.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	247.253	248.729	252.310	2.0	1.4
Fuels and utilities.....	216.335	207.325	224.359	3.7	8.2
Household energy.....	203.050	187.706	206.411	1.7	10.0
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	206.746	191.633	211.955	2.5	10.6
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	216.266	196.229	232.743	7.6	18.6
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	160.894	155.966	147.123	-8.6	-5.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	123.328	122.936	122.984	-0.3	0.0
Apparel.....	152.919	152.607	151.959	-0.6	-0.4
Transportation.....	196.580	186.351	184.691	-6.0	-0.9
Private transportation.....	196.615	185.532	183.828	-6.5	-0.9
Motor fuel.....	284.676	228.602	212.959	-25.2	-6.8
Gasoline (all types).....	279.782	224.821	209.495	-25.1	-6.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	272.066	217.906	202.077	-25.7	-7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	322.183	260.957	246.028	-23.6	-5.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	272.622	223.376	214.233	-21.4	-4.1
Medical Care.....	397.113	399.380	401.228	1.0	0.5
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	115.898	117.536	117.248	1.2	-0.2
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	139.194	139.860	139.737	0.4	-0.1
Other goods and services.....	309.398	308.338	304.807	-1.5	-1.1
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	219.994	218.543	220.100	0.0	0.7
Commodities.....	190.242	186.043	185.054	-2.7	-0.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	161.572	155.198	153.069	-5.3	-1.4
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	220.749	207.564	202.308	-8.4	-2.5
Durables.....	107.543	106.677	107.026	-0.5	0.3
Services.....	251.576	252.726	256.731	2.0	1.6
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care.....	211.188	209.540	211.084	0.0	0.7
All items less shelter.....	215.563	212.836	213.958	-0.7	0.5
Commodities less food.....	164.944	158.516	156.441	-5.2	-1.3
Nondurables.....	233.736	227.570	225.747	-3.4	-0.8
Nondurables less food.....	223.047	210.198	205.260	-8.0	-2.3
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	272.130	272.415	277.832	2.1	2.0
Services less medical care services.....	238.360	239.336	243.256	2.1	1.6
Energy.....	239.112	206.259	210.377	-12.0	2.0
All items less energy.....	221.537	222.594	223.934	1.1	0.6

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**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) - Continued**

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
All items less food and energy .....	217.761	218.738	220.008	1.0	0.6

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 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All Items.....	219.353	217.378	218.965	-0.2	0.7
All items (1967=100).....	645.349	639.536	644.208		
Food and beverages.....	247.695	248.840	250.198	1.0	0.5
Food.....	247.326	248.874	250.285	1.2	0.6
Food at home.....	234.247	234.541	235.337	0.5	0.3
Food away from home.....	267.355	272.137	274.725	2.8	1.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	225.698	220.780	221.206	-2.0	0.2
Housing.....	211.041	210.898	215.727	2.2	2.3
Shelter.....	238.999	241.044	244.102	2.1	1.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	215.472	218.026	222.150	3.1	1.9
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	226.519	227.871	231.152	2.0	1.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	226.519	227.871	231.152	2.0	1.4
Fuels and utilities.....	220.702	211.486	229.973	4.2	8.7
Household energy.....	206.149	190.492	210.628	2.2	10.6
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	210.884	195.253	216.760	2.8	11.0
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	216.264	196.228	232.742	7.6	18.6
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	160.895	155.967	147.123	-8.6	-5.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	115.333	115.077	115.028	-0.3	0.0
Apparel.....	149.043	147.737	146.655	-1.6	-0.7
Transportation.....	200.730	189.723	187.959	-6.4	-0.9
Private transportation.....	199.750	188.382	186.574	-6.6	-1.0
Motor fuel.....	284.719	228.574	212.909	-25.2	-6.9
Gasoline (all types).....	279.783	224.822	209.496	-25.1	-6.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	272.054	217.895	202.067	-25.7	-7.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	322.183	260.957	246.028	-23.6	-5.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	272.635	223.387	214.243	-21.4	-4.1
Medical Care.....	399.388	401.564	403.190	1.0	0.4
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	118.548	120.230	119.576	0.9	-0.5
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	132.548	133.124	133.146	0.5	0.0
Other goods and services.....	324.182	325.548	325.308	0.3	-0.1
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>					
All Items.....	219.353	217.378	218.965	-0.2	0.7
Commodities.....	194.331	189.566	188.524	-3.0	-0.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	167.308	159.973	157.871	-5.6	-1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	220.907	205.189	199.641	-9.6	-2.7
Durables.....	115.990	115.249	115.782	-0.2	0.5
Services.....	250.094	251.190	255.715	2.2	1.8
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>					
All items less medical care.....	211.951	209.817	211.401	-0.3	0.8
All items less shelter.....	214.332	211.025	212.139	-1.0	0.5
Commodities less food.....	169.950	162.637	160.593	-5.5	-1.3
Nondurables.....	233.771	226.598	224.554	-3.9	-0.9
Nondurables less food.....	222.045	206.927	201.725	-9.2	-2.5
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	250.894	251.031	256.855	2.4	2.3
Services less medical care services.....	237.333	238.280	242.739	2.3	1.9
Energy.....	239.587	205.283	208.399	-13.0	1.5
All items less energy.....	219.994	221.083	222.520	1.1	0.6

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**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) - Continued**

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2015 from-	
	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	2nd half 2014	1st half 2015
All items less food and energy .....	214.384	215.377	216.821	1.1	0.7

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.