

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Two Pershing Square Building
2300 Main Street, Suite 1190
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

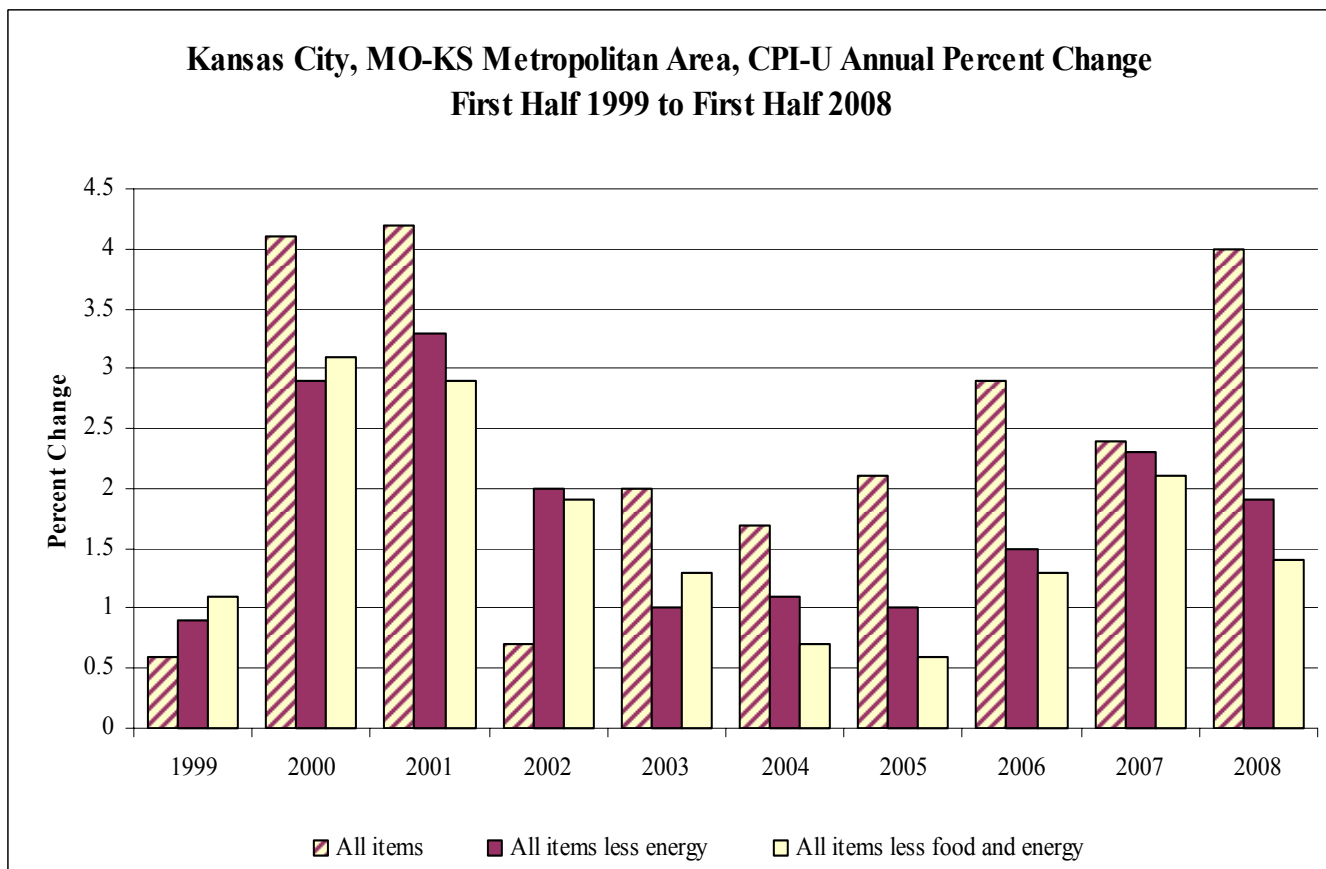


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
(816) 285-7000
Media Contact: Linda Nickisch (816) 285-7002
WWW Access: <http://www.bls.gov/ro7>

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR KANSAS CITY, MO-KS Prices increase 4.0 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Kansas City metropolitan area increased 4.0 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman, rising energy costs led by higher motor fuel prices accounted for over half of the increase in the overall index. Energy prices, which include prices for motor fuel and household fuels, surged 21.7 percent over the year, the largest over-the-year increase since semi-annual publication of the index began in 1985. Excluding the impact of volatile energy prices, the Kansas City CPI was up 1.9 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half 2008.



The transportation index, reflecting rising prices for motor fuel, had the largest effect among the eight major expenditure categories over the year. The index advanced 10.7 percent since the first half of 2007, the largest over-the-year increase in the transportation component since semi-annual publication of the index began in 1985. Private transportation costs, which include prices for vehicles and motor fuel, rose 10.8 percent. Motor fuel prices in the Kansas City metropolitan area jumped 29.0 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008, following a 4.3 percent increase over the same period one year ago.

The housing index rose 3.2 percent and had the second greatest impact on the overall index due to upward pressure from both the fuels and utilities and the shelter components. Prices for fuels and utilities advanced 12.3 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. Within fuels and utilities, electricity costs rose 10.1 percent over the year and the index for utility (piped) gas service increased 14.1 percent following an increase of 0.9 percent in the same period one year ago. Contributing to the 2.1 percent rise in shelter costs, owners' equivalent rent of primary residence increased 2.0 percent and rent of primary residence was up 1.4 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations were nearly unchanged over the year.

The food and beverages index increased 5.1 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008, the largest over-the-year advance since 1996. Food at home prices rose 6.5 percent and the cost of food away from home was up 3.1 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages increased 6.3 percent over the period.

The remaining major expenditure categories contributed little to the increase in the overall index. Costs for education and communication rose 2.4 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. The apparel index declined 2.8 percent following an increase of 7.2 percent in the same period one year ago. The other goods and services index, which includes prices for tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, rose 1.2 percent. Recreation prices, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, increased 0.4 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008.

The Kansas City CPI-U stood at 200.868 for the first half of 2008. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$200.87 in the first half of 2008. 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.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2008 from—	
	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007
Expenditure category					
All items	193.206	195.753	200.868	4.0	2.6
All items (1967=100)	573.699	581.261	596.449	-	-
Food and beverages	196.627	200.003	206.678	5.1	3.3
Food	198.954	202.481	208.728	4.9	3.1
Food at home	195.976	200.971	208.747	6.5	3.9
Food away from home	204.800	207.896	211.222	3.1	1.6
Alcoholic beverages	165.952	167.489	176.349	6.3	5.3
Housing	187.134	189.345	193.093	3.2	2.0
Shelter	205.937	208.645	210.239	2.1	.8
Rent of primary residence	205.873	207.045	208.749	1.4	.8
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	202.539	204.524	206.491	2.0	1.0
Fuels and utilities	190.838	195.809	214.305	12.3	9.4
Household energy	167.364	174.235	189.264	13.1	8.6
Gas (piped) and electricity	166.601	173.188	186.520	12.0	7.7
Electricity	105.018	116.102	115.574	10.1	-.5
Utility (piped) gas service	257.893	250.055	294.357	14.1	17.7
Household furnishings and operations	126.280	126.406	126.118	-.1	-.2
Apparel	110.528	108.442	107.382	-2.8	-1.0
Transportation	177.784	182.594	196.778	10.7	7.8
Private transportation	175.990	180.738	195.046	10.8	7.9
Motor fuel	232.538	256.374	299.873	29.0	17.0
Gasoline (all types)	232.383	256.183	299.713	29.0	17.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	227.131	250.595	293.843	29.4	17.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	281.424	309.683	360.241	28.0	16.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	229.531	252.207	292.579	27.5	16.0
Medical care	299.060	302.852	-	-	-
Recreation ⁴	113.946	113.457	114.445	.4	.9
Education and communication ⁴	114.009	115.505	116.728	2.4	1.1
Other goods and services	324.187	323.679	328.186	1.2	1.4
Commodity and service group					
All items	193.206	195.753	200.868	4.0	2.6
Commodities	165.582	167.364	172.950	4.4	3.3
Commodities less food and beverages	149.465	150.577	155.562	4.1	3.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	192.098	195.585	205.874	7.2	5.3
Durables	108.034	107.434	107.685	-.3	.2
Services	220.550	223.873	228.488	3.6	2.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	187.343	189.820	195.535	4.4	3.0
All items less shelter	189.740	192.391	198.770	4.8	3.3
Commodities less food	149.806	150.929	156.143	4.2	3.5
Nondurables	194.505	197.941	206.508	6.2	4.3
Nondurables less food	190.118	193.469	203.731	7.2	5.3
Services less rent of shelter ¹	244.610	249.228	257.236	5.2	3.2
Services less medical care services	211.437	214.185	218.408	3.3	2.0
Energy	197.778	212.496	240.711	21.7	13.3
All items less energy	193.903	195.519	197.589	1.9	1.1
All items less food and energy	193.192	194.468	195.808	1.4	.7

¹ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W):Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Kansas City, MO-KS (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2008 from—	
	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007
Expenditure category					
All items	184.561	187.094	192.430	4.3	2.9
All items (1967=100)	540.763	548.186	563.820	-	-
Food and beverages	196.321	199.666	206.299	5.1	3.3
Food	198.251	201.749	207.988	4.9	3.1
Food at home	195.088	199.898	207.351	6.3	3.7
Food away from home	204.594	207.728	211.422	3.3	1.8
Alcoholic beverages	167.032	168.009	176.982	6.0	5.3
Housing	177.840	179.722	183.304	3.1	2.0
Shelter	193.383	195.862	197.209	2.0	.7
Rent of primary residence	205.873	207.045	208.749	1.4	.8
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	184.399	186.206	187.997	2.0	1.0
Fuels and utilities	189.655	194.785	212.962	12.3	9.3
Household energy	166.617	173.731	188.644	13.2	8.6
Gas (piped) and electricity	166.879	173.719	186.868	12.0	7.6
Electricity	105.020	116.103	115.576	10.1	-.5
Utility (piped) gas service	257.892	250.054	294.355	14.1	17.7
Household furnishings and operations	114.671	114.272	113.309	-1.2	-.8
Apparel	102.483	102.586	101.564	-.9	-1.0
Transportation	168.780	173.546	186.760	10.7	7.6
Private transportation	167.527	172.252	185.630	10.8	7.8
Motor fuel	232.522	256.355	299.845	29.0	17.0
Gasoline (all types)	232.377	256.177	299.706	29.0	17.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	227.129	250.592	293.840	29.4	17.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	281.424	309.683	360.241	28.0	16.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	229.523	252.198	292.568	27.5	16.0
Medical care	301.018	304.312	-	-	-
Recreation ⁴	112.908	112.407	113.658	.7	1.1
Education and communication ⁴	107.871	108.849	110.363	2.3	1.4
Other goods and services	327.980	327.421	332.747	1.5	1.6
Commodity and service group					
All items	184.561	187.094	192.430	4.3	2.9
Commodities	160.375	162.374	168.202	4.9	3.6
Commodities less food and beverages	143.568	145.010	150.372	4.7	3.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	187.880	192.644	204.386	8.8	6.1
Durables	108.889	108.021	108.180	-.7	.1
Services	212.761	215.947	220.562	3.7	2.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	179.640	182.138	187.848	4.6	3.1
All items less shelter	182.358	185.031	191.619	5.1	3.6
Commodities less food	144.248	145.681	151.259	4.9	3.8
Nondurables	192.136	196.215	205.460	6.9	4.7
Nondurables less food	186.739	191.300	202.973	8.7	6.1
Services less rent of shelter ¹	216.005	220.087	227.584	5.4	3.4
Services less medical care services	203.843	206.496	210.651	3.3	2.0
Energy	196.121	210.986	239.162	21.9	13.4
All items less energy	184.692	186.216	188.328	2.0	1.1
All items less food and energy	181.993	183.108	184.339	1.3	.7

¹ Index is on a December 1984=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.