

News

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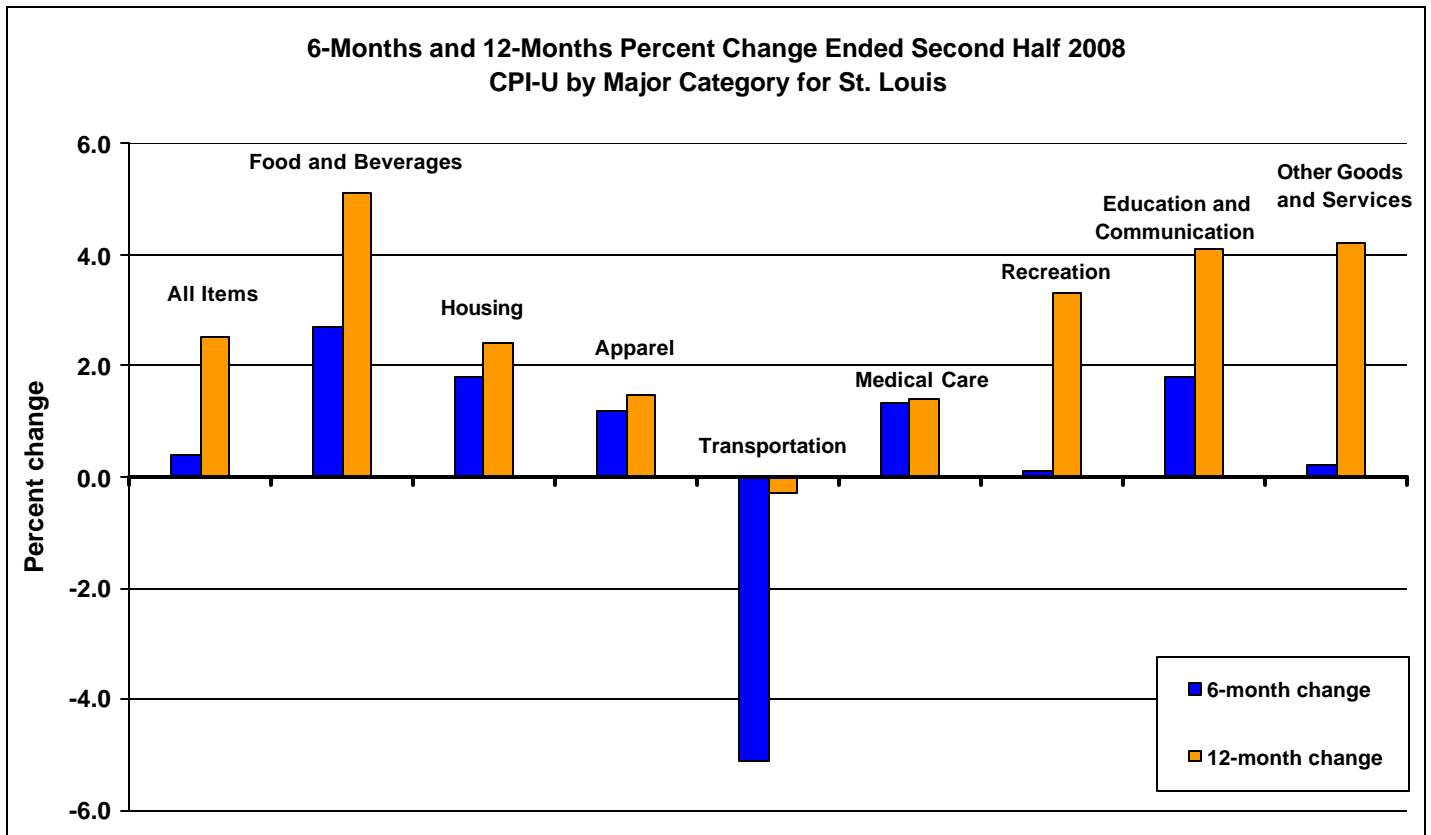
FOR RELEASE:

February 20, 2009

7:30am Central Time

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ST. LOUIS, MO-IL Prices increased 2.5 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis metropolitan area increased 2.5 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008, with most of the increase occurring in the first half of the period, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman, while costs in seven of the eight major expenditure categories were up over the year, over two-thirds of the increase in the overall index was attributable to rising costs for housing and food and beverages.



Among the eight major expenditure categories, rising housing costs had the largest impact on the overall index, increasing 2.4 percent due largely to a 1.7 percent rise in shelter costs. Within shelter, rent of primary residence increased 1.1 percent and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 2.0 percent. Prices for household energy advanced 5.8 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008. Electricity prices moderated, increasing 0.3 percent after rising 6.2 percent in the same period one year ago. Charges for utility (piped) gas service turned up 13.0 percent over the year after falling 6.0 percent from the second half of 2006 to the second half of 2007. Prices for household furnishings and operations rose 3.0 percent.

The food and beverages index had the second largest effect on the all items index as costs rose 5.1 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008, the largest over-the-year increase since 1991. Prices for food at home climbed 6.6 percent and accounted for over three-fifths of the increase in the food and beverages index. Costs for food away from home increased 3.5 percent and alcoholic beverages prices were 3.1 percent higher.

The St. Louis metropolitan area also recorded higher prices in five other major expenditure categories. The index for education and communication rose 4.1 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008. Recreation prices, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, rose 3.3 percent. Prices for other goods and services, which include tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, increased 4.2 percent since the second half of 2007 and medical care costs were up 1.4 percent. Apparel prices rose 1.5 percent over the period following an 8.0-percent increase in the same period one year ago.

The transportation index was the only major expenditure category that did not record an increase in prices from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008. However, price increases in the first half of the year nearly offset decreases in the second half, resulting in a slight over the year decline of 0.3 percent that had little impact on the all items index. Motor fuel prices were up 6.4 percent over the year, but the rate of increase slowed from the previous gain of 14.1 percent from the second half of 2006 to the second half of 2007.

Energy prices, which include prices for motor fuel and household fuels, were up 6.1 percent over the year, with price declines in the last half of the year partially offsetting increases recorded in the first half. The special aggregate index for all items less energy rose 2.1 percent. Excluding the impact of food and energy prices the St. Louis CPI-U was up 1.5 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 199.122 for the second half of 2008. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$199.12 in the second 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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-606-STAT; TDD phone: 202-606-5897; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-326-2577.

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 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	194.338	198.278	199.122	2.5	0.4
All items (1967=100)	577.214	588.919	591.427	-	-
Food and beverages	197.064	201.675	207.203	5.1	2.7
Food	195.671	200.189	206.121	5.3	3.0
Food at home	187.230	193.191	199.638	6.6	3.3
Food away from home	210.777	212.115	218.102	3.5	2.8
Alcoholic beverages	199.926	204.759	206.147	3.1	.7
Housing	185.961	187.115	190.462	2.4	1.8
Shelter	209.558	211.913	213.028	1.7	.5
Rent of primary residence	189.558	190.131	191.694	1.1	.8
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	216.290	218.842	220.558	2.0	.8
Fuels and utilities	182.620	176.550	194.410	6.5	10.1
Household energy	175.864	161.667	186.060	5.8	15.1
Gas (piped) and electricity	179.640	163.438	189.424	5.4	15.9
Electricity	149.336	128.511	149.762	.3	16.5
Utility (piped) gas service	206.334	202.514	233.135	13.0	15.1
Household furnishings and operations	133.281	135.694	137.226	3.0	1.1
Apparel	125.583	125.935	127.421	1.5	1.2
Transportation	180.346	189.492	179.781	-.3	-5.1
Private transportation	181.261	190.663	180.642	-.3	-5.3
Motor fuel	261.217	315.425	277.829	6.4	-11.9
Gasoline (all types)	257.046	310.825	273.083	6.2	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	249.524	302.708	265.434	6.4	-12.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	297.469	357.775	315.397	6.0	-11.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	252.169	301.686	266.849	5.8	-11.5
Medical care	342.893	343.086	347.701	1.4	1.3
Recreation ⁴	119.138	122.946	123.018	3.3	.1
Education and communication ⁴	125.765	128.582	130.924	4.1	1.8
Other goods and services	260.630	271.104	271.522	4.2	.2
Commodity and service group					
All items	194.338	198.278	199.122	2.5	.4
Commodities	167.959	173.994	172.051	2.4	-1.1
Commodities less food and beverages	151.382	157.897	152.725	.9	-3.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	190.782	208.914	198.532	4.1	-5.0
Durables	114.599	111.790	110.841	-3.3	-.8
Services	222.383	224.312	227.854	2.5	1.6
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	186.855	190.900	191.592	2.5	.4
All items less shelter	190.882	195.498	196.276	2.8	.4
Commodities less food	153.669	160.147	155.227	1.0	-3.1
Nondurables	194.236	205.718	203.221	4.6	-1.2
Nondurables less food	191.918	209.009	199.619	4.0	-4.5
Services less rent of shelter ¹	241.441	243.011	249.731	3.4	2.8
Services less medical care services	211.038	212.984	216.345	2.5	1.6
Energy	212.682	228.763	225.699	6.1	-1.3
All items less energy	195.627	197.646	199.749	2.1	1.1
All items less food and energy	195.963	197.529	198.945	1.5	.7

¹ Index is on a November 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

St. Louis, MO-IL (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	193.393	197.848	198.337	2.6	0.2
All items (1967=100)	568.973	582.079	583.520	-	-
Food and beverages	197.422	202.211	208.127	5.4	2.9
Food	196.658	201.427	207.733	5.6	3.1
Food at home	187.496	193.360	199.942	6.6	3.4
Food away from home	211.483	213.080	219.463	3.8	3.0
Alcoholic beverages	190.955	194.618	196.201	2.7	.8
Housing	188.574	188.886	192.839	2.3	2.1
Shelter	209.265	211.641	213.018	1.8	.7
Rent of primary residence	189.558	190.131	191.694	1.1	.8
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	198.152	200.491	202.062	2.0	.8
Fuels and utilities	185.728	179.468	197.788	6.5	10.2
Household energy	177.410	162.635	187.459	5.7	15.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	181.460	164.978	191.209	5.4	15.9
Electricity	149.334	128.510	149.762	.3	16.5
Utility (piped) gas service	206.335	202.514	233.136	13.0	15.1
Household furnishings and operations	130.042	129.677	129.974	-1.1	.2
Apparel	125.929	127.014	128.050	1.7	.8
Transportation	183.362	194.208	183.399	.0	-5.6
Private transportation	182.921	193.931	182.954	.0	-5.7
Motor fuel	261.202	315.426	277.799	6.4	-11.9
Gasoline (all types)	257.047	310.826	273.084	6.2	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	249.512	302.693	265.421	6.4	-12.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	297.469	357.775	315.397	6.0	-11.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	252.181	301.700	266.862	5.8	-11.5
Medical care	342.482	342.151	346.931	1.3	1.4
Recreation ⁴	120.762	124.897	125.781	4.2	.7
Education and communication ⁴	122.789	125.230	126.697	3.2	1.2
Other goods and services	259.208	269.651	270.135	4.2	.2
Commodity and service group					
All items	193.393	197.848	198.337	2.6	.2
Commodities	171.595	178.420	175.360	2.2	-1.7
Commodities less food and beverages	156.655	164.173	157.372	.5	-4.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	192.048	212.871	200.301	4.3	-5.9
Durables	121.559	117.938	116.201	-4.4	-1.5
Services	220.554	222.343	226.588	2.7	1.9
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	187.095	191.634	191.997	2.6	.2
All items less shelter	189.505	194.803	194.987	2.9	.1
Commodities less food	158.399	165.836	159.330	.6	-3.9
Nondurables	194.761	207.927	204.180	4.8	-1.8
Nondurables less food	192.374	212.091	200.586	4.3	-5.4
Services less rent of shelter ¹	222.204	223.639	230.912	3.9	3.3
Services less medical care services	209.614	211.420	215.499	2.8	1.9
Energy	213.545	230.764	226.960	6.3	-1.6
All items less energy	193.653	195.575	197.691	2.1	1.1
All items less food and energy	192.854	194.209	195.526	1.4	.7

¹ Index is on a November 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.