

# News

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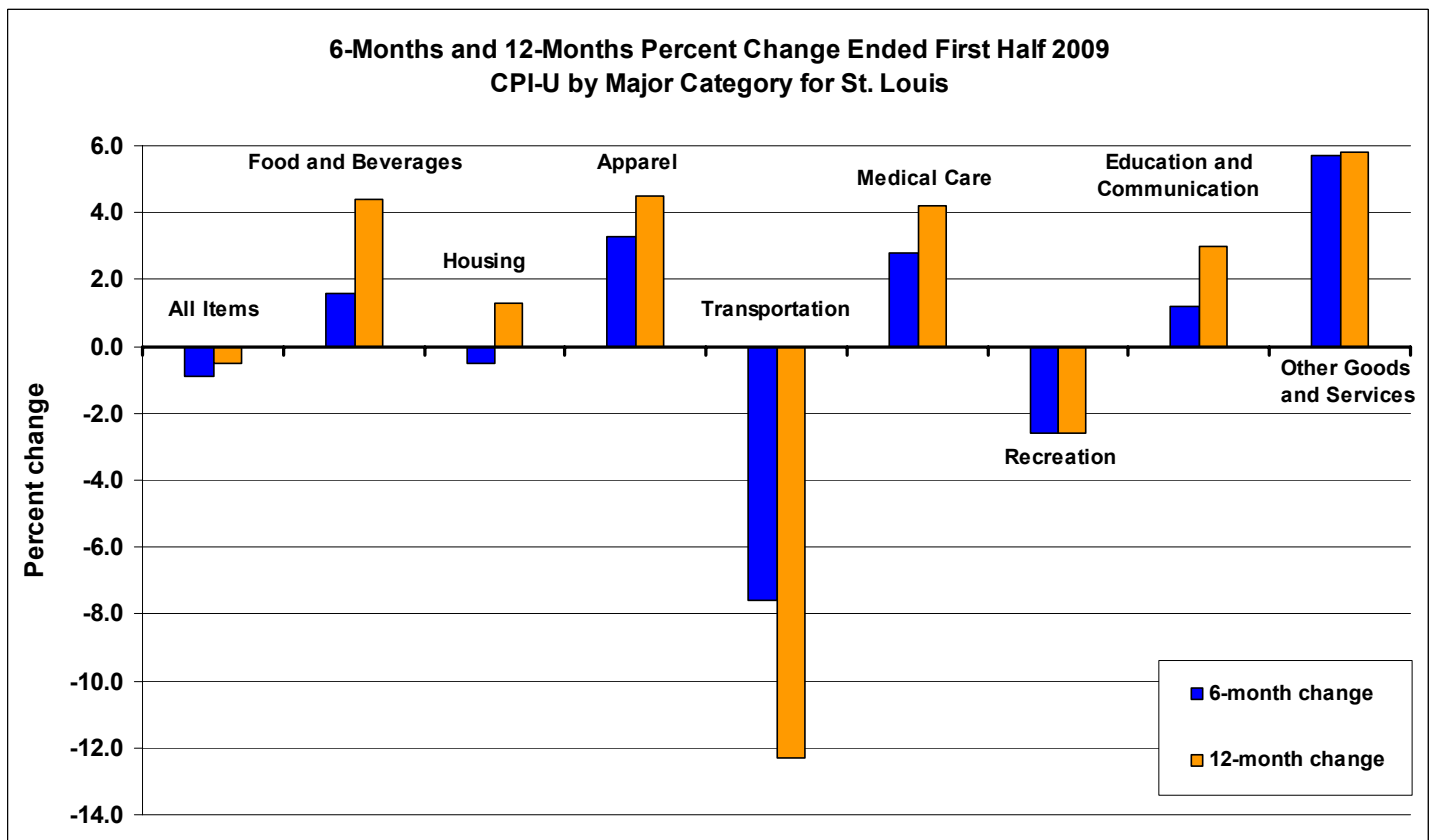
FOR RELEASE:

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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ST. LOUIS Prices decreased 0.5 percent from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., metropolitan area decreased 0.5 percent from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009, the first over-the-year decline recorded since 1955, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman, decreasing transportation costs, due almost entirely to falling prices for motor fuel, accounted for over one-half of the movement in the all items index.



Among the eight major expenditure categories, declining transportation costs had the largest impact on the overall index, decreasing 12.3 percent due largely to a record-setting 39.0 percent drop in motor fuel prices from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009. The sharp decline in motor fuel costs followed thirteen consecutive periods of over-the-year price increases that began in the second half of 2002.

Despite the decline in the all items index, six of the eight major expenditure categories recorded advances from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009. Of these, the food and beverages index had the largest upward impact, rising 4.4 percent and partially offsetting the downward movement in the transportation index. Prices for food at home advanced 4.8 percent and costs for food away from home increased 5.2 percent, the largest over-the-year increase in prices for food away from home since 1990. Prices for alcoholic beverages were 1.6 percent higher over the period.

The housing index rose 1.3 percent from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009. Shelter costs increased 0.8 percent as rent of primary residence advanced 1.8 percent and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 1.4 percent. Prices for household energy were up 1.0 percent. Electricity prices increased 6.0 percent after registering little movement in the same period one year ago. Charges for utility (piped) gas service decreased 2.4 percent over the year after declining 1.0 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. Prices for household furnishings and operations rose 1.3 percent.

Each of the remaining five major expenditure categories had little impact on the St. Louis all items index. The index for medical care advanced 4.2 percent from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009. Costs for education and communication rose 3.0 percent and prices for other goods and services, which include tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, increased 5.8 percent since the first half of 2008. Apparel prices rose 4.5 percent over the period following a 1.7-percent increase in the same period one year ago. The recreation index, which includes admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, decreased 2.6 percent over the year.

Energy prices, which include prices for motor fuel and household fuels, fell 23.3 percent over the year, with most of the price declines occurring in the last half of the period. The special aggregate index for all items less energy rose 2.2 percent. Excluding the impact of food and energy prices the St. Louis CPI-U was up 1.8 percent from the first half of 2008 to the first half of 2009.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 197.370 for the first half of 2009. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$197.37 in the first half of 2009. 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.

The St. Louis, Mo.-Ill., Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Clinton, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties in Illinois; and St. Louis city, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren Counties in Missouri.

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**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 1st half 2009 from—	
	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	198.278	199.122	197.370	-0.5	-0.9
All items (1967=100) .....	588.919	591.427	586.220	-	-
Food and beverages .....	201.675	207.203	210.452	4.4	1.6
Food .....	200.189	206.121	209.489	4.6	1.6
Food at home .....	193.191	199.638	202.520	4.8	1.4
Food away from home .....	212.115	218.102	223.235	5.2	2.4
Alcoholic beverages .....	204.759	206.147	208.078	1.6	.9
Housing .....	187.115	190.462	189.596	1.3	-.5
Shelter .....	211.913	213.028	213.556	.8	.2
Rent of primary residence .....	190.131	191.694	193.644	1.8	1.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	218.842	220.558	221.967	1.4	.6
Fuels and utilities .....	176.550	194.410	182.249	3.2	-6.3
Household energy .....	161.667	186.060	163.318	1.0	-12.2
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	163.438	189.424	167.062	2.2	-11.8
Electricity .....	128.511	149.762	136.241	6.0	-9.0
Utility (piped) gas service .....	202.514	233.135	197.606	-2.4	-15.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	135.694	137.226	137.470	1.3	.2
Apparel .....	125.935	127.421	131.624	4.5	3.3
Transportation .....	189.492	179.781	166.161	-12.3	-7.6
Private transportation .....	190.663	180.642	167.292	-12.3	-7.4
Motor fuel .....	315.425	277.829	192.322	-39.0	-30.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	310.825	273.083	190.090	-38.8	-30.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	302.708	265.434	183.313	-39.4	-30.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	357.775	315.397	221.847	-38.0	-29.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	301.686	266.849	191.536	-36.5	-28.2
Medical care .....	343.086	347.701	357.606	4.2	2.8
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	122.946	123.018	119.765	-2.6	-2.6
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	128.582	130.924	132.446	3.0	1.2
Other goods and services .....	271.104	271.522	286.939	5.8	5.7
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	198.278	199.122	197.370	-.5	-.9
Commodities .....	173.994	172.051	168.406	-3.2	-2.1
Commodities less food and beverages .....	157.897	152.725	146.184	-7.4	-4.3
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	208.914	198.532	182.550	-12.6	-8.1
Durables .....	111.790	110.841	111.969	.2	1.0
Services .....	224.312	227.854	227.912	1.6	.0
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	190.900	191.592	189.413	-.8	-1.1
All items less shelter .....	195.498	196.276	193.379	-1.1	-1.5
Commodities less food .....	160.147	155.227	149.008	-7.0	-4.0
Nondurables .....	205.718	203.221	196.657	-4.4	-3.2
Nondurables less food .....	209.009	199.619	185.113	-11.4	-7.3
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	243.011	249.731	248.396	2.2	-.5
Services less medical care services .....	212.984	216.345	215.865	1.4	-.2
Energy .....	228.763	225.699	175.372	-23.3	-22.3
All items less energy .....	197.646	199.749	202.054	2.2	1.2
All items less food and energy .....	197.529	198.945	201.062	1.8	1.1

<sup>1</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>2</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> 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 1st half 2009 from—	
	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	197.848	198.337	195.839	-1.0	-1.3
All items (1967=100) .....	582.079	583.520	576.168	-	-
Food and beverages .....	202.211	208.127	211.145	4.4	1.5
Food .....	201.427	207.733	210.814	4.7	1.5
Food at home .....	193.360	199.942	202.686	4.8	1.4
Food away from home .....	213.080	219.463	224.643	5.4	2.4
Alcoholic beverages .....	194.618	196.201	198.371	1.9	1.1
Housing .....	188.886	192.839	191.700	1.5	-.6
Shelter .....	211.641	213.018	213.928	1.1	.4
Rent of primary residence .....	190.131	191.694	193.644	1.8	1.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	200.491	202.062	203.354	1.4	.6
Fuels and utilities .....	179.468	197.788	185.405	3.3	-6.3
Household energy .....	162.635	187.459	164.708	1.3	-12.1
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	164.978	191.209	168.637	2.2	-11.8
Electricity .....	128.510	149.762	136.240	6.0	-9.0
Utility (piped) gas service .....	202.514	233.136	197.606	-2.4	-15.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	129.677	129.974	130.347	.5	.3
Apparel .....	127.014	128.050	132.820	4.6	3.7
Transportation .....	194.208	183.399	167.909	-13.5	-8.4
Private transportation .....	193.931	182.954	167.558	-13.6	-8.4
Motor fuel .....	315.426	277.799	192.348	-39.0	-30.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	310.826	273.084	190.090	-38.8	-30.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	302.693	265.421	183.304	-39.4	-30.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	357.775	315.397	221.847	-38.0	-29.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	301.700	266.862	191.545	-36.5	-28.2
Medical care .....	342.151	346.931	356.942	4.3	2.9
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	124.897	125.781	121.656	-2.6	-3.3
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	125.230	126.697	128.599	2.7	1.5
Other goods and services .....	269.651	270.135	290.892	7.9	7.7
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	197.848	198.337	195.839	-1.0	-1.3
Commodities .....	178.420	175.360	170.650	-4.4	-2.7
Commodities less food and beverages .....	164.173	157.372	149.539	-8.9	-5.0
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	212.871	200.301	182.924	-14.1	-8.7
Durables .....	117.938	116.201	116.810	-1.0	.5
Services .....	222.343	226.588	226.391	1.8	-.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	191.634	191.997	189.174	-1.3	-1.5
All items less shelter .....	194.803	194.987	191.117	-1.9	-2.0
Commodities less food .....	165.836	159.330	151.844	-8.4	-4.7
Nondurables .....	207.927	204.180	196.409	-5.5	-3.8
Nondurables less food .....	212.091	200.586	184.641	-12.9	-7.9
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	223.639	230.912	228.979	2.4	-.8
Services less medical care services .....	211.420	215.499	214.858	1.6	-.3
Energy .....	230.764	226.960	175.874	-23.8	-22.5
All items less energy .....	195.575	197.691	200.291	2.4	1.3
All items less food and energy .....	194.209	195.526	198.030	2.0	1.3

<sup>1</sup> Index is on a November 1984=100 base.

<sup>2</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.