

News

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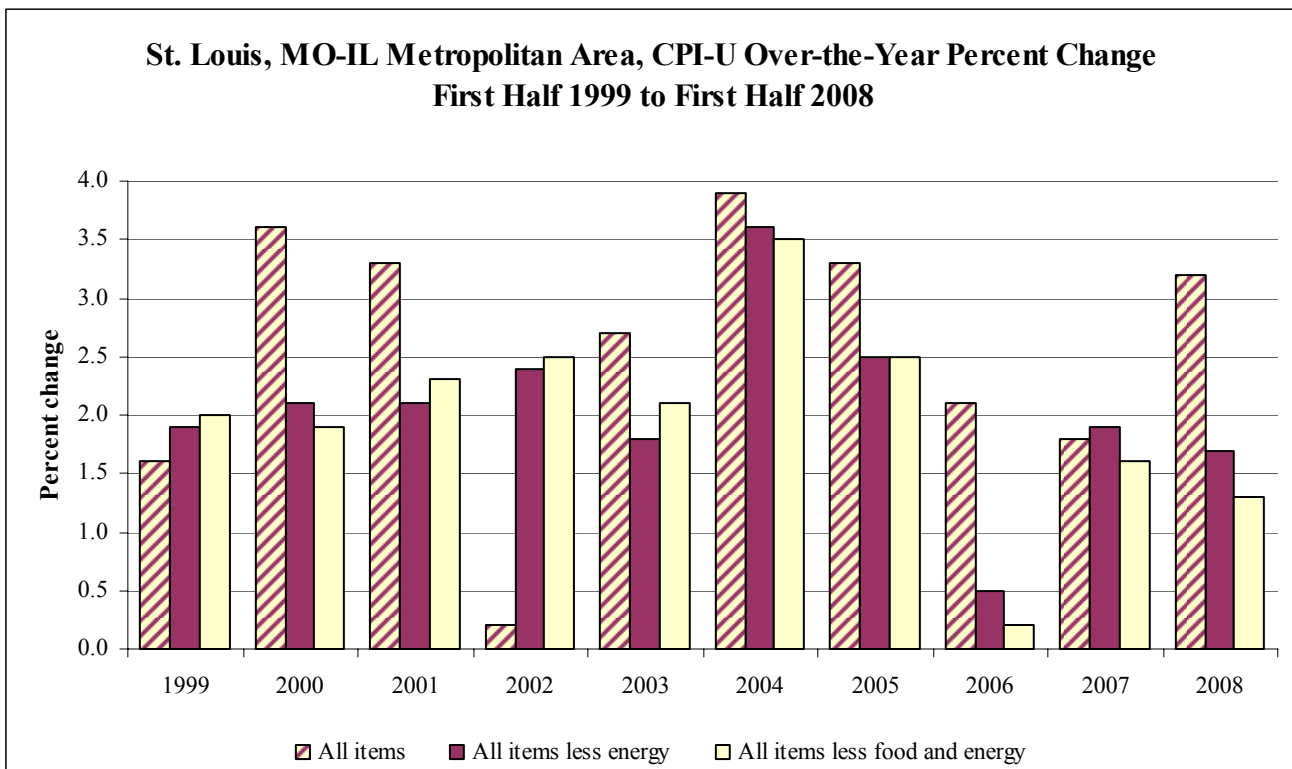


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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ST. LOUIS, MO-IL Prices increase 3.2 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis metropolitan area increased 3.2 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 prices for energy largely attributable to rising gasoline prices accounted for nearly one-half of the increase in the overall index. Energy prices, which include prices for motor fuel and household fuels, advanced 17.1 percent over the year. Excluding the impact of energy, the CPI for St. Louis rose 1.7 percent.



Among the eight major expenditure categories, rising prices for transportation had the largest impact on the overall index, reflecting higher motor fuel costs. Transportation prices rose 7.3 percent over the year driven by a 30.8 percent surge in motor fuel costs. Private transportation costs, which include prices for vehicles and motor fuel, were up 7.5 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008.

Housing costs had the second largest effect on the overall index, increasing 1.5 percent due largely to a 1.8 percent rise in shelter costs. Within shelter, rent of primary residence increased 1.8 percent and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 1.4 percent. Electricity prices were virtually unchanged after rising 6.4 percent in the same period one year ago. In contrast, charges for utility (piped) gas service were down 1.0 percent over the year. Prices for household furnishings and operations were up 0.6 percent.

Prices for food and beverages also contributed upward pressure on the all items index, as costs rose 3.7 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. Prices for food at home were up 4.3 percent and prices for food away from home increased 2.5 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices were 3.3 percent higher.

The index for education and communication rose 5.2 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008, the second largest increase since semiannual reporting began in 1999. Over the same period, increases in the prior three years ranged from 1.0 percent to 2.3 percent.

Combined, the four remaining major groups accounted for less than one-eighth of the increase in the overall index. Recreation prices, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, rose 3.1 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. Prices for other goods and services, which include tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, increased 3.9 percent since the first half of 2007 and the apparel index was up 1.7 percent. Medical care costs were 0.5 percent lower over the year after increasing more than 3 percent during the same period in each of the previous four years.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 198.278 for the first half of 2008. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$198.28 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.

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 1st half 2008 from—	
	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007
Expenditure category					
All items	192.125	194.338	198.278	3.2	2.0
All items (1967=100)	570.642	577.214	588.919	-	-
Food and beverages	194.464	197.064	201.675	3.7	2.3
Food	193.009	195.671	200.189	3.7	2.3
Food at home	185.218	187.230	193.191	4.3	3.2
Food away from home	207.037	210.777	212.115	2.5	.6
Alcoholic beverages	198.153	199.926	204.759	3.3	2.4
Housing	184.323	185.961	187.115	1.5	.6
Shelter	208.193	209.558	211.913	1.8	1.1
Rent of primary residence	186.814	189.558	190.131	1.8	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	215.722	216.290	218.842	1.4	1.2
Fuels and utilities	175.060	182.620	176.550	.9	-3.3
Household energy	160.785	175.864	161.667	.5	-8.1
Gas (piped) and electricity	164.134	179.640	163.438	-4	-9.0
Electricity	128.369	149.336	128.511	.1	-13.9
Utility (piped) gas service	204.489	206.334	202.514	-1.0	-1.9
Household furnishings and operations	134.903	133.281	135.694	.6	1.8
Apparel	123.821	125.583	125.935	1.7	.3
Transportation	176.631	180.346	189.492	7.3	5.1
Private transportation	177.436	181.261	190.663	7.5	5.2
Motor fuel	241.060	261.217	315.425	30.8	20.8
Gasoline (all types)	237.204	257.046	310.825	31.0	20.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	231.553	249.524	302.708	30.7	21.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	272.231	297.469	357.775	31.4	20.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	227.885	252.169	301.686	32.4	19.6
Medical care	344.824	342.893	343.086	-.5	.1
Recreation ⁴	119.257	119.138	122.946	3.1	3.2
Education and communication ⁴	122.171	125.765	128.582	5.2	2.2
Other goods and services	260.852	260.630	271.104	3.9	4.0
Commodity and service group					
All items	192.125	194.338	198.278	3.2	2.0
Commodities	165.968	167.959	173.994	4.8	3.6
Commodities less food and beverages	149.701	151.382	157.897	5.5	4.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	185.656	190.782	208.914	12.5	9.5
Durables	115.661	114.599	111.790	-3.3	-2.5
Services	219.928	222.383	224.312	2.0	.9
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	184.501	186.855	190.900	3.5	2.2
All items less shelter	188.303	190.882	195.498	3.8	2.4
Commodities less food	151.980	153.669	160.147	5.4	4.2
Nondurables	190.366	194.236	205.718	8.1	5.9
Nondurables less food	187.045	191.918	209.009	11.7	8.9
Services less rent of shelter ¹	237.630	241.441	243.011	2.3	.7
Services less medical care services	208.222	211.038	212.984	2.3	.9
Energy	195.436	212.682	228.763	17.1	7.6
All items less energy	194.316	195.627	197.646	1.7	1.0
All items less food and energy	194.906	195.963	197.529	1.3	.8

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 1st half 2008 from—	
	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007
Expenditure category					
All items	190.919	193.393	197.848	3.6	2.3
All items (1967=100)	561.693	568.973	582.079	-	-
Food and beverages	194.530	197.422	202.211	3.9	2.4
Food	193.791	196.658	201.427	3.9	2.4
Food at home	185.487	187.496	193.360	4.2	3.1
Food away from home	207.684	211.483	213.080	2.6	.8
Alcoholic beverages	187.890	190.955	194.618	3.6	1.9
Housing	186.825	188.574	188.886	1.1	.2
Shelter	208.133	209.265	211.641	1.7	1.1
Rent of primary residence	186.814	189.558	190.131	1.8	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	197.632	198.152	200.491	1.4	1.2
Fuels and utilities	177.957	185.728	179.468	.8	-3.4
Household energy	161.982	177.410	162.635	.4	-8.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	165.719	181.460	164.978	-.4	-9.1
Electricity	128.369	149.334	128.510	.1	-13.9
Utility (piped) gas service	204.490	206.335	202.514	-1.0	-1.9
Household furnishings and operations	132.219	130.042	129.677	-1.9	-.3
Apparel	123.765	125.929	127.014	2.6	.9
Transportation	179.553	183.362	194.208	8.2	5.9
Private transportation	179.067	182.921	193.931	8.3	6.0
Motor fuel	241.045	261.202	315.426	30.9	20.8
Gasoline (all types)	237.204	257.047	310.826	31.0	20.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	231.542	249.512	302.693	30.7	21.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	272.231	297.469	357.775	31.4	20.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	227.895	252.181	301.700	32.4	19.6
Medical care	343.641	342.482	342.151	-.4	-.1
Recreation ⁴	120.920	120.762	124.897	3.3	3.4
Education and communication ⁴	119.223	122.789	125.230	5.0	2.0
Other goods and services	259.408	259.208	269.651	3.9	4.0
Commodity and service group					
All items	190.919	193.393	197.848	3.6	2.3
Commodities	169.312	171.595	178.420	5.4	4.0
Commodities less food and beverages	154.678	156.655	164.173	6.1	4.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	186.592	192.048	212.871	14.1	10.8
Durables	122.137	121.559	117.938	-3.4	-3.0
Services	217.846	220.554	222.343	2.1	.8
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	184.529	187.095	191.634	3.9	2.4
All items less shelter	186.651	189.505	194.803	4.4	2.8
Commodities less food	156.387	158.399	165.836	6.0	4.7
Nondurables	190.582	194.761	207.927	9.1	6.8
Nondurables less food	187.028	192.374	212.091	13.4	10.2
Services less rent of shelter ¹	218.195	222.204	223.639	2.5	.6
Services less medical care services	206.613	209.614	211.420	2.3	.9
Energy	196.165	213.545	230.764	17.6	8.1
All items less energy	192.241	193.653	195.575	1.7	1.0
All items less food and energy	191.770	192.854	194.209	1.3	.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.