

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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Consumer Price Index for St. Louis Annual changes from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the St. Louis metropolitan area increased 3.9 percent from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Acting Regional Commissioner John D. Gordon, rising prices for housing accounted for nearly half of the increase in the overall index. Energy prices rose 9.7 percent over the year. Excluding the impact of energy, the CPI for St. Louis rose 3.6 percent.

Housing costs increased 4.9 percent from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004. Shelter costs rose 5.9 percent over the year. Within shelter, rent of primary residence increased 3.3 percent and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 4.5 percent. Fuels and utilities prices advanced 5.0 percent. Within fuels and utilities, utility (piped) gas service prices increased 14.1 percent after increasing 31.0 percent over the previous year. Electricity prices decreased 1.9 percent over the year, following a 2.9 percent decline in the previous year. Household furnishings and operations decreased 1.2 percent.

Food and beverages prices rose 4.1 percent, the largest increase in this expenditure group in the last 10 years. Prices for food purchased for consumption at home increased 5.9 percent, while prices for food away from home rose 2.0 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices increased 1.2 percent.

Transportation prices rose 2.0 percent over the year. Motor fuel prices advanced 14.2 percent, following an increase of 19.3 percent in the same period one year ago.

Medical care prices increased 8.1 percent from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004, following an increase of 1.3 percent over the previous year.

Apparel prices advanced 7.9 percent from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004. Education and communication prices rose 2.8 percent, following an increase of 5.1 percent in the same period one year ago.

Recreation prices rose 1.1 percent over the year. Prices for other goods and services, which include tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, declined 0.2 percent.

The St. Louis CPI-U stood at 179.1 for the first half of 2004. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 cost \$179.10 in the first half of 2004.

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 2004 from-	
	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	1st half 2004	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003
Expenditure category					
All items.....	172.3	174.5	179.1	3.9	2.6
All items (1967=100).....	511.9	518.3	532.0	-	-
Food and beverages.....	172.2	174.5	179.2	4.1	2.7
Food.....	170.4	172.8	177.5	4.2	2.7
Food at home.....	163.6	165.7	173.3	5.9	4.6
Food away from home.....	182.7	184.5	186.3	2.0	1.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	186.3	185.5	188.5	1.2	1.6
Housing.....	166.0	168.8	174.1	4.9	3.1
Shelter.....	186.9	188.4	197.9	5.9	5.0
Rent of primary residence.....	170.8	173.7	176.5	3.3	1.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1)	193.6	195.6	202.4	4.5	3.5
Fuels and utilities.....	141.2	149.8	148.3	5.0	-1.0
Fuels.....	125.0	140.7	131.5	5.2	-6.5
Gas (piped) and electricity.....	128.4	145.0	135.2	5.3	-6.8
Electricity.....	122.3	140.8	120.0	-1.9	-14.8
Utility (piped) gas service.....	139.5	153.6	159.2	14.1	3.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	141.1	140.2	139.4	-1.2	-0.6
Apparel.....	119.1	124.6	128.5	7.9	3.1
Transportation.....	153.7	152.9	156.7	2.0	2.5
Private transportation.....	154.1	152.7	156.5	1.6	2.5
Motor fuel.....	142.0	136.9	162.1	14.2	18.4
Gasoline (all types).....	139.8	134.8	159.5	14.1	18.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular (2).....	135.7	130.5	155.2	14.4	18.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3).....	160.7	156.0	183.2	14.0	17.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium (2).....	139.4	135.1	157.2	12.8	16.4
Medical care.....	282.4	-	305.2	8.1	-
Recreation (4).....	113.0	113.7	114.2	1.1	.4
Education and communication (4).....	113.3	116.2	116.5	2.8	.3
Other goods and services.....	251.8	250.8	251.4	-0.2	.2
Commodity and service group					
All items.....	172.3	174.5	179.1	3.9	2.6
Commodities.....	150.7	150.8	154.1	2.3	2.2
Commodities less food and beverages.....	138.0	137.0	139.6	1.2	1.9
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	155.3	156.9	164.1	5.7	4.6
Durables.....	119.7	116.5	115.1	-3.8	-1.2
Services.....	195.4	199.7	205.7	5.3	3.0
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care.....	166.5	168.5	172.6	3.7	2.4
All items less shelter.....	168.9	171.0	174.2	3.1	1.9
Commodities less food.....	140.2	139.2	141.8	1.1	1.9
Nondurables.....	164.1	166.1	172.0	4.8	3.6
Nondurables less food.....	157.7	159.2	166.2	5.4	4.4
Services less rent of shelter (1)	209.6	215.9	218.9	4.4	1.4
Services less medical care services.....	186.6	190.8	195.7	4.9	2.6
Energy.....	131.5	138.3	144.3	9.7	4.3
All items less energy.....	178.6	180.6	185.0	3.6	2.4
All items less food and energy.....	180.5	182.5	186.8	3.5	2.4

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.

Regions defined as the four Census regions.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.