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RELEASE OF THIS MATERIAL IS  
EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:30 A.M., EDT,  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2004

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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR TAMPA-ST. PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER FIRST HALF 2004

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida, Metropolitan Statistical Area increased 1.5 percent in the first half of 2004, not seasonally adjusted, to a level of 160.9 (1987=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin announced that from the first half of 2003 through the first half of 2004, the index rose 2.1 percent.

Six of the eight major indexes recorded increases in the first half of the year. Over the first half of the year, food costs rose 1.3 percent while energy costs increased 10.3 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater rose 0.8 percent, close to the 0.9 percentage point increase recorded over the first half of 2003.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area, by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percent change from	
	1st half 2003 to 1st half 2004	2nd half 2003 to 1st half 2004
All items	2.1	1.5
Food and beverages	3.1	1.3
Housing	3.0	2.1
Apparel	-7.4	-5.6
Transportation	0.8	1.2
Medical care	5.2	3.4
Recreation 1/	2.9	2.6
Education and communication 1/	-3.3	-1.1
Other goods and services	1.2	0.2

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Since the first half of 2003, the CPI-U for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater has risen 2.1 percent. During that same time period, food costs increased 3.2 percent, while energy costs advanced 10.2 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater has risen 1.1 percent since the first half of 2003.

Among the major index groups, the food and beverages index rose 1.3 percent in the first half of the year, compared to a 1.8 percent increase for the second half of last year. Most of the increase was due to a 1.5 percent increase in the cost of food at home. The index for food away from home rose 0.8 percent for the same time period, while costs for alcoholic beverages moved up 1.2 percent. Since the first half of 2003, the food and beverages index has advanced 3.1 percent, as costs for food at home rose 3.4 percent. At the same time, costs for food away from home rose 1.9 percent, while costs for alcoholic beverages increased 2.6 percent.

The index for housing rose 2.1 percent in the first half of 2004 following a 0.9 percent rise in the second half of 2003. Costs for shelter increased 1.5 percent over the first half. The shelter index reflects changes in the costs for rent of primary residence, lodging away from home, and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence. Most of the increase was due to a 7.4 percent rise in the cost of fuels and utilities, compared to a 2.9 percent rise in the second half of 2003. Costs for household furnishings and operations were 0.1 percent higher over the first half of the year. Since the first half of 2003, the housing index has risen 3.0 percent. Shelter costs increased 2.3 percent, while costs for fuels and utilities advanced 10.5 percent. The index for household furnishings and operations increased 0.5 percent over the year.

Apparel costs continue to fall, dropping 5.6 percent after declining 1.8 percent in the second half of 2003. The index has declined each half year since the first half of 2002. With the most recent decline, apparel costs have declined 7.4 percent since the first half of 2003.

The index for transportation rose 1.2 percent in the first half of the year after decreasing 0.3 percent in the second half of 2003. Gasoline costs, which had fallen 2.7 percent in the second half of 2003, rose 17.1 percent in the first half of 2004. Since the first half of 2003, gasoline costs have increased 13.9 percent.

Other major index groups include medical care, which rose 3.4 percent in the first half of the year, twice the 1.7 percent increase recorded in the second half of 2003. Since the first half of 2003, the index has risen 5.2 percent. Costs for recreation increased 2.6 percent in the first half of 2004. The index for recreation has increased 2.9 percent since the first half of 2003. The education and communication index dropped 1.1 percent after falling 2.3 percent in the second half of 2003. Since the first half of 2003, the index has declined 3.3 percent. The other goods and services index rose 0.2 percent in the first half of 2004. Since the first half of 2003, costs for other goods and services have increased 1.2 percent.

### **The South and metropolitan areas in the Southeast**

Semiannual averages are also produced for the South region and the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Georgia; and Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In the first half of 2004; costs rose 1.5 percent in the South, 1.1 percent in Atlanta, and 1.8 percent in Miami-Fort Lauderdale. Since the first half of 2003, consumer costs have risen 2.2 percent in the South; 0.7 percent in Atlanta; and 2.5 percent in Miami-Fort Lauderdale.

## Technical Notes

As announced, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has updated the consumption expenditure weights in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) to the 2001-02 period, effective with release of data for January 2004. The updated expenditure weights replace the 1999-2000 weights, which were first used in the index effective with January 2002 data. As originally announced, by BLS in December 1998, CPI expenditure weights will continue to be updated at two-year intervals subsequent to the 2004 updating.

During the past year, the CPI program completed its conversion to Computer Assisted Data Collection (CADC). Due to the efficiencies gained from conversion to CADC, BLS has extended data collection to cover the entire month, beginning with data for January 2004. CPI data collection is scheduled in terms of business days – weekdays excluding holidays. Formerly, data collection covered three pricing periods, each comprising six business days in most months and five days in November and December. Consequently, the last day of scheduled data collection was usually the 18<sup>th</sup> business day of the month. This allowed time during the end of the month for the mailing of paper schedules back to the Washington Office and the data entry of the information in these schedules. Starting in January 2004, the three pricing periods now have variable lengths, between six and eight business days long. The third pricing period normally will end on the last business day of the month.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at <http://www.bls.gov>. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at <http://www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm>. CPI data are also available through our fax-on-demand system. Table 1 for the CPI-U, South may be found under Code 9110. For a catalog of items available to be faxed to you, call our fax-on-demand number at (404) 331-3403. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 331-3415, and customers in the Miami area can reach us at (305) 358-2305. Information from the Consumer Price Index program is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer price index for all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida, (1987=100), not seasonally adjusted.

Group	All urban consumers			Urban wage earners and clerical workers		
	Index 1st half 2004	Percent change to 1st half 2004 from		Index 1st half 2004	Percent change to 1st half 2004 from	
		1st half 2003	2nd half 2003		1st half 2003	2nd half 2003
All items	160.9	2.1	1.5	160.0	2.1	1.5
Food and beverages	159.9	3.1	1.3	161.3	3.9	1.6
Food	158.6	3.2	1.3	159.3	3.7	1.5
Food at home	157.6	3.4	1.5	159.2	4.1	1.8
Food away from home	159.5	1.9	0.8	159.1	1.9	0.8
Alcoholic beverages	167.5	2.6	1.2	173.6	6.8	3.3
Housing	156.8	3.0	2.1	156.9	3.0	1.9
Shelter	170.2	2.3	1.5	170.4	2.0	1.1
Rent of primary residence	165.3	2.3	1.2	165.3	2.3	1.2
Owners' equivalent rent (1)	178.4	1.8	0.8	178.4	1.8	0.8
Fuel and utilities	149.9	10.5	7.4	148.7	10.3	7.1
Fuels	130.9	6.9	4.6	131.0	6.9	4.5
Gas (piped) and electricity	130.1	7.1	4.4	130.5	7.0	4.4
Electricity	127.8	7.1	4.4	127.8	7.1	4.4
Utility (piped) gas service	246.5	4.1	3.7	246.5	4.1	3.7
Household furnishings and operation	121.4	0.5	0.1	116.7	0.9	0.6
Apparel	133.6	-7.4	-5.6	119.0	-7.3	-6.0
Transportation	149.1	0.8	1.2	154.0	1.0	1.7
Private transportation	151.8	0.9	1.3	156.1	0.9	1.7
Motor fuel	185.7	13.9	17.0	185.7	13.9	17.0
Gasoline (all types)	182.2	13.9	17.1	182.2	13.9	17.1
Regular unleaded (1)	180.1	14.6	17.9	180.1	14.6	17.9
Midgrade unleaded (1) (2)	158.5	13.2	16.3	158.5	13.2	16.3
Premium unleaded (1)	181.8	12.6	15.4	181.8	12.6	15.4
Medical care	233.0	5.2	3.4	235.1	5.1	3.3
Recreation (3)	108.4	2.9	2.6	107.4	3.2	3.1
Education and communication (3)	102.5	-3.3	-1.1	104.9	-3.6	-1.3
Other goods and services	212.7	1.2	0.2	214.4	0.2	-0.2
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
Commodities	140.7	1.3	1.2	143.1	1.9	1.6
Commodities less food and beverages	129.1	0.0	0.9	131.6	0.5	1.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	165.2	2.7	3.4	165.1	4.1	4.7
Durables	95.0	-2.3	-1.1	100.0	-2.9	-1.3
Services	179.2	2.6	1.7	176.8	2.4	1.5
All items less medical care	156.5	1.9	1.4	156.3	2.0	1.4
All items less shelter	157.7	2.1	1.5	156.8	2.3	1.8
Commodities less food	131.6	0.2	1.0	134.8	0.7	1.7
Nondurables	162.6	3.2	2.4	163.3	4.1	3.1
Nondurables less food	165.9	2.8	3.3	167.1	4.3	4.6
Energy	152.7	10.2	10.3	155.1	10.2	10.5
All items less energy	161.3	1.4	0.9	160.0	1.3	0.8
All items less food and energy	161.9	1.1	0.8	160.2	0.9	0.6
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar: 1987=\$1.00	\$.622	-	-	\$.625	-	-

1/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

2/ Index is on a December 1993=100 base.

3/ Index is on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.