

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



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Bureau of Labor Statistics

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[www.bls.gov/ro5](http://www.bls.gov/ro5)

**Consumer Price Index for Energy and Food  
Cleveland-Akron, OH CMSA  
August 2008**

The Cleveland-Akron Consumer Price Index for energy fell 2.6 percent in August, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. (The energy index is comprised of electricity, utility (piped) gas service, motor fuel, and fuel oil and other household fuels.) On an annual basis, the price of energy-related goods and services gained 32.4 percent in the Cleveland area. In the previous 12-months, August 2006-07, the energy index fell 2.6 percent. The cost of grocery food (food at home index) increased 2.9 percent from July to August. Grocery food costs rose 8.5 percent over the past year, more than the 1.9 percent increase in the previous 12-month period ending in August 2007.

Cleveland area gasoline prices fell 7.5 percent over the month, contributing to the monthly decline in energy costs. Utility (piped) gas service prices rose 4.5 percent, partially offsetting the decrease in gasoline costs. The electricity index was unchanged over the month.

On an annual basis, prices at the gasoline pumps were 35.7 percent higher, compared to a 4.7 percent decline in the previous 12-month period ended in August 2007. The utility (piped) gas service index rose 51.7 percent from August a year ago and the electricity index was up 6.0 percent for the year.

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Scheduled release date for the September 2008 CPI:  
Thursday, October 16, 2008

### CPI HOTLINE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Cleveland area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier, as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Cleveland is (216) 522-3852.

### BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi), and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods**

**Cleveland-Akron, OH** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Aug. 2007	June 2008	July 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	-	206.941	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100) .....	-	663.137	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	-	212.971	-	-	-	-
Food .....	-	216.670	-	-	-	-
Food at home .....	210.689	208.735	214.876	8.5	2.0	2.9
Food away from home .....	-	232.643	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	-	172.371	-	-	-	-
Housing .....	-	196.356	-	-	-	-
Shelter .....	212.015	212.199	210.595	-5	-7	-8
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	206.804	207.058	207.168	-6	.2	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	210.024	209.235	209.272	-5	-4	.0
Fuels and utilities .....	-	244.137	-	-	-	-
Household energy .....	237.299	244.841	250.710	30.1	5.7	2.4
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	237.377	245.309	251.683	29.7	6.0	2.6
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	167.422	170.642	170.647	6.0	1.9	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	312.069	325.804	340.443	51.7	9.1	4.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	-	120.120	-	-	-	-
Apparel .....	-	107.477	-	-	-	-
Transportation .....	-	217.028	-	-	-	-
Private transportation .....	-	218.288	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel .....	399.647	396.769	367.552	35.9	-8.0	-7.4
Gasoline (all types) .....	396.651	393.665	364.097	35.7	-8.2	-7.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	386.514	382.675	354.221	36.1	-8.4	-7.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	401.816	401.942	369.993	35.6	-7.9	-7.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	379.026	377.080	349.554	33.7	-7.8	-7.3
Medical care .....	-	341.171	-	-	-	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	-	110.879	-	-	-	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	-	112.028	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services .....	-	334.071	-	-	-	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	-	206.941	-	-	-	-
Commodities .....	-	183.320	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	-	165.329	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	-	214.782	-	-	-	-
Durables .....	-	113.162	-	-	-	-
Services .....	-	232.019	-	-	-	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	-	200.911	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter .....	-	206.896	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food .....	-	165.631	-	-	-	-
Nondurables .....	-	215.797	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food .....	-	211.079	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	-	258.295	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services .....	-	223.751	-	-	-	-
Energy .....	296.862	300.210	292.274	32.4	-1.5	-2.6
All items less energy .....	-	199.006	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy .....	-	195.856	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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