

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST – AUGUST 2008

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the August 2008 All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the West decreased 0.5 percent compared to July. During the past 12 months, the overall index increased 4.9 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the annual increase was primarily due to higher transportation prices. The special all items less food and energy index rose by 0.2 percent in August, but the energy index decreased 6.1 percent. On an annual basis, these indexes rose by 2.5 percent and 28.0 percent, respectively. Regional CPI area data are not seasonally adjusted.

The transportation index, which comprises approximately 19 percent of the all items index, declined 2.8 percent in August. For the year ending August 2008, transportation prices jumped 12.4 percent. Gasoline prices decreased 7.8 percent for the month, but increased 40.4 percent since August 2007. Additionally, new cars and trucks prices were down 0.4 percent in August and were 1.2 percent lower than a year ago.

The housing index was unchanged for August, but rose 3.0 percent since August 2007. The index for shelter, the largest housing component, edged up 0.1 percent for the month and was 2.8 percent higher for the year. Prices for household fuels and utilities decreased 1.6 percent from July to August, but increased 7.8 percent since last year. Within the fuels and utilities index, electricity prices were unchanged in August and advanced 3.9 percent from a year ago. Prices for utility (piped) gas service fell 7.8 percent for the month, but jumped 18.1 percent over the year. Prices for household furnishings and operations crept up 0.3 percent for the month and increased 1.0 percent for the year.

Food and beverages prices rose 0.2 percent in August 2008 and increased 5.3 percent over the past 12 months. Both grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, along with the food away from home index, advanced 0.2 percent in August. Over the year, prices for groceries increased 6.9 percent, and prices for food away from home increased 3.8 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages declined 0.2 percent in August, but rose 2.8 percent over the year.

The medical care index edged up 0.1 percent and increased 3.6 percent for the year. In August, prices for medical care services changed little and prices for medical care commodities increased 0.3 percent. Over the latest 12-month period, prices for medical care services and prices for medical care commodities advanced 4.3 and 1.5 percent, respectively.

Apparel prices were up 0.3 percent in August, but decreased 0.8 percent over the past 12 months.

Among the remaining major expenditure categories, prices for education and communication increased 0.7 percent, and prices for other goods and services were up 0.3 percent. Over the past year, prices for education and communication were 3.4 percent higher, and prices for other goods and services were up 3.7 percent. The recreation index inched up 0.1 percent in August and advanced 1.4 percent for the year.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West stands at 222.823 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$222.82 in August 2008.

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

West (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
Expenditure category						
All items	223.040	223.867	222.823	4.9	-0.1	-0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	360.532	361.869	360.181	-	-	-
Food and beverages	219.494	221.139	221.506	5.3	.9	.2
Food	218.806	220.636	221.063	5.5	1.0	.2
Food at home	224.337	226.684	227.153	6.9	1.3	.2
Food away from home	210.792	211.971	212.342	3.8	.7	.2
Alcoholic beverages	226.529	225.897	225.552	2.8	-4	-2
Housing	227.629	228.864	228.814	3.0	.5	.0
Shelter	254.387	255.242	255.593	2.8	.5	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	254.677	255.331	255.857	3.9	.5	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	266.587	267.153	267.752	3.2	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities	236.250	242.120	238.144	7.8	.8	-1.6
Household energy	225.811	232.065	226.527	8.6	.3	-2.4
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	226.727	232.998	227.545	7.7	.4	-2.3
Electricity ¹	224.224	226.634	226.719	3.9	1.1	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	254.479	271.903	250.776	18.1	-1.5	-7.8
Household furnishings and operations	133.320	133.764	134.122	1.0	.6	.3
Apparel	111.423	108.467	108.777	-8	-2.4	.3
Transportation	213.387	214.211	208.298	12.4	-2.4	-2.8
Private transportation	207.301	207.719	201.618	12.1	-2.7	-2.9
New and used motor vehicles ³	93.329	93.306	93.047	-1.1	-3	-3
New vehicles	133.785	133.658	133.072	-1.2	-5	-4
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	93.021	92.930	92.520	-1.2	-5	-4
New cars ⁴	135.531	136.059	136.451	1.7	.7	.3
Used cars and trucks	133.631	133.558	133.153	-1.1	-4	-3
Motor fuel	352.320	353.317	325.719	40.6	-7.6	-7.8
Gasoline (all types)	350.024	351.110	323.707	40.4	-7.5	-7.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	350.122	351.523	323.909	41.2	-7.5	-7.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	326.346	326.734	301.628	38.9	-7.6	-7.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	329.835	330.394	305.000	38.0	-7.5	-7.7
Medical care	369.169	369.054	369.557	3.6	.1	.1
Medical care commodities	299.590	297.892	298.723	1.5	-3	.3
Medical care services	390.090	390.598	390.964	4.3	.2	.1
Professional services	292.123	292.694	293.323	3.6	.4	.2
Recreation ³	109.155	109.522	109.664	1.4	.5	.1
Education and communication ³	122.774	123.309	124.122	3.4	1.1	.7
Other goods and services	346.887	347.269	348.239	3.7	.4	.3
Commodity and service group						
All items	223.040	223.867	222.823	4.9	-1	-5
Commodities	179.351	179.590	177.335	6.6	-1.1	-1.3
Commodities less food and beverages	156.050	155.765	152.663	7.3	-2.2	-2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	206.683	205.744	199.217	14.9	-3.6	-3.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	273.060	273.438	262.284	20.1	-3.9	-4.1
Durables	111.520	111.723	111.264	-1.5	-2	-4
Services	262.185	263.600	263.842	3.8	.6	.1
Rent of shelter ²	270.610	271.585	271.961	2.8	.5	.1
Transportation services	250.189	252.805	253.395	6.5	1.3	.2
Other services	292.090	293.133	294.607	4.1	.9	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

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

West (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
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	215.885	216.737	215.649	5.0	-0.1	-0.5
All items less food	223.841	224.516	223.246	4.8	-.3	-.6
All items less shelter	211.703	212.525	210.876	6.0	-.4	-.8
Commodities less food	159.068	158.771	155.722	7.1	-2.1	-1.9
Nondurables	215.290	215.535	212.116	10.0	-1.5	-1.6
Nondurables less food	208.793	207.868	201.685	14.0	-3.4	-3.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	267.893	268.173	258.090	18.4	-3.7	-3.8
Services less rent of shelter ²	280.680	282.877	282.958	5.2	.8	.0
Services less medical care services	252.661	254.106	254.339	3.7	.7	.1
Energy	301.821	305.028	286.478	28.0	-5.1	-6.1
All items less energy	218.551	219.193	219.557	2.9	.5	.2
All items less food and energy	219.162	219.605	219.959	2.5	.4	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	136.656	136.167	136.156	-.2	-.4	.0
Energy commodities	355.450	356.642	329.118	40.5	-7.4	-7.7
Services less energy services	265.119	266.230	266.833	3.6	.6	.2

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

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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