

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chicago, Ill. 60604

General Information: (312) 353-1880
Media Contact: Paul LaPorte
(312) 353-1138
www.bls.gov/ro5

FOR RELEASE:
7:30 A.M. CT
Friday, February 20, 2009

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
MILWAUKEE-RACINE, WI
SECOND HALF 2008 SEMIANNUAL AVERAGES AND 2008 ANNUAL AVERAGES**

Retail prices in the Milwaukee-Racine area were up 1.1 percent in the second half of 2008 compared with their levels in the first half of 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The second half 2008 Milwaukee-Racine all items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was 204.103 (1982-84=100). By comparison, retail prices gained 1.5 percent in the second half of 2007 and 0.7 percent in the second half of 2006.

On an annual average basis, Milwaukee area consumers paid 4.6 percent more for goods and services in 2008 than in 2007. Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa stated that most of this increase was attributed to higher prices for housing, transportation, and food and beverages. Gains with lesser impact were noted in other goods and services, apparel, medical care, recreation, and education and communication. None of the eight major consumer expenditure categories experienced an over-the-year decline.

The housing component rose 3.9 percent during 2008. A smaller gain of 1.5 percent was recorded in 2007. Among the three primary categories that make up the housing component, shelter prices increased 2.9 percent, costs for fuels and utilities rose 11.6 percent and prices for household furnishings and operations increased 2.2 percent. Within the fuels and utilities category, electricity costs rose 8.2 percent while prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 15.3 percent.

The transportation component increased 6.9 percent in 2008, more than the 3.5 percent increase in 2007. Higher gasoline prices were the primary contributor to this annual increase, rising 14.4 percent over the year. In 2007, gasoline prices in the Milwaukee area rose 7.2 percent.

The food and beverages component posted an annual gain of 4.8 percent, more than the 3.5 percent increase reported in 2007. Grocery food costs (food at home index) rose 5.5 percent in 2008, more than the 4.4 percent advance in 2007. The food away from home index (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending machine purchases) increased 4.9 percent in 2008, more than the 3.0 percent rise in 2007.

Alcoholic beverage prices were up 1.8 percent in 2008 after rising 3.3 percent in 2007.

The other goods and services component, which includes items like tobacco and personal care items, rose 9.9 percent in 2008, well ahead of its 2.5 percent gain in 2007. Due to its relatively small weight in the all items index, however, this increase had a smaller overall effect than the prior three components.

The cost of medical care in the Milwaukee area increased 4.4 percent in 2008. This was more than gains of 3.0 and 2.5 percent recorded in 2007 and 2006, respectively. Apparel prices were up 4.3 percent in 2008. This was more than the 2.9 percent increase reported in 2007.

The education and communication component was up 3.6 percent in 2008. This was well above the 0.7 percent increase recorded in 2007. The recreation component increased 2.5 percent in 2008, more than the 0.7 percent increase in 2007.

#

Scheduled release date for the 1st Half of 2009 CPI:
Friday, August 14, 2009

CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U. S. City Average and for the Milwaukee 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 schedule release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Milwaukee is (414) 276-2579.

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 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.

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

Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	195.571	201.955	204.103	4.4	1.1
All items (1967=100)	604.042	623.762	630.394	-	-
Food and beverages	207.381	211.137	218.026	5.1	3.3
Food	209.812	213.691	221.415	5.5	3.6
Food at home	211.791	215.256	224.184	5.9	4.1
Food away from home	208.948	213.626	219.213	4.9	2.6
Alcoholic beverages	187.724	190.111	190.149	1.3	.0
Housing	191.125	196.914	199.252	4.3	1.2
Shelter	228.323	233.705	234.720	2.8	.4
Rent of primary residence	207.214	210.694	214.839	3.7	2.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	239.799	244.519	248.075	3.5	1.5
Fuels and utilities	181.134	201.602	206.683	14.1	2.5
Household energy	157.127	177.432	179.086	14.0	.9
Gas (piped) and electricity	161.670	182.374	184.054	13.8	.9
Electricity	157.179	164.212	171.739	9.3	4.6
Utility (piped) gas service	164.167	202.386	193.944	18.1	-4.2
Household furnishings and operations	104.481	104.160	108.096	3.5	3.8
Apparel	115.950	118.205	120.033	3.5	1.5
Transportation	181.608	192.511	187.940	3.5	-2.4
Private transportation	174.713	184.953	179.730	2.9	-2.8
Motor fuel	265.325	303.578	279.223	5.2	-8.0
Gasoline (all types)	261.701	299.787	274.969	5.1	-8.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	267.566	306.639	280.040	4.7	-8.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	268.757	308.541	289.198	7.6	-6.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	224.177	255.325	236.674	5.6	-7.3
Medical care	332.038	344.192	346.580	4.4	.7
Recreation ⁴	104.416	106.414	107.057	2.5	.6
Education and communication ⁴	120.834	122.748	127.439	5.5	3.8
Other goods and services	299.255	324.115	329.795	10.2	1.8
Commodity and service group					
All items	195.571	201.955	204.103	4.4	1.1
Commodities	161.190	166.115	167.377	3.8	.8
Commodities less food and beverages	139.018	144.423	143.460	3.2	-7
Nondurables less food and beverages	179.515	189.993	187.960	4.7	-1.1
Durables	102.408	103.326	103.253	.8	-1
Services	228.256	236.023	239.036	4.7	1.3
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	189.453	195.589	197.721	4.4	1.1
All items less shelter	185.214	192.135	194.619	5.1	1.3
Commodities less food	140.870	146.142	145.222	3.1	-6
Nondurables	194.890	202.228	204.313	4.8	1.0
Nondurables less food	179.664	189.400	187.553	4.4	-1.0
Services less rent of shelter ¹	237.778	248.972	254.322	7.0	2.1
Services less medical care services	218.841	226.029	229.157	4.7	1.4
Energy	205.886	234.222	224.672	9.1	-4.1
All items less energy	196.117	200.792	203.801	3.9	1.5
All items less food and energy	194.521	199.380	201.618	3.6	1.1

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 All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for annual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Milwaukee-Racine, WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Annual average indexes		Percent change to 2008 from 2007
	2007	2008	
Expenditure category			
All items	194.102	203.029	4.6
All items (1967=100)	599.506	627.078	-
Food and beverages	204.799	214.581	4.8
Food	207.048	217.553	5.1
Food at home	208.327	219.720	5.5
Food away from home	206.391	216.420	4.9
Alcoholic beverages	186.813	190.130	1.8
Housing	190.697	198.083	3.9
Shelter	227.660	234.212	2.9
Rent of primary residence	206.366	212.767	3.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	238.935	246.297	3.1
Fuels and utilities	182.947	204.142	11.6
Household energy	158.978	178.259	12.1
Gas (piped) and electricity	163.931	183.214	11.8
Electricity	155.270	167.976	8.2
Utility (piped) gas service	171.852	198.165	15.3
Household furnishings and operations	103.834	106.128	2.2
Apparel	114.258	119.119	4.3
Transportation	177.993	190.226	6.9
Private transportation	171.154	182.341	6.5
Motor fuel	254.660	291.400	14.4
Gasoline (all types)	251.191	287.378	14.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	256.697	293.339	14.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	258.201	298.869	15.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	215.724	245.999	14.0
Medical care	330.954	345.386	4.4
Recreation ⁴	104.120	106.736	2.5
Education and communication ⁴	120.750	125.094	3.6
Other goods and services	297.618	326.955	9.9
Commodity and service group			
All items	194.102	203.029	4.6
Commodities	159.144	166.746	4.8
Commodities less food and beverages	137.232	143.941	4.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	174.719	188.976	8.2
Durables	103.097	103.289	.2
Services	227.350	237.530	4.5
Special aggregate indexes			
All items less medical care	187.968	196.655	4.6
All items less shelter	183.505	193.377	5.4
Commodities less food	139.107	145.682	4.7
Nondurables	190.961	203.270	6.4
Nondurables less food	175.135	188.476	7.6
Services less rent of shelter ¹	236.697	251.647	6.3
Services less medical care services	218.018	227.593	4.4
Energy	202.374	229.447	13.4
All items less energy	195.010	202.296	3.7
All items less food and energy	193.653	200.499	3.5

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.