

News

United States
Department
of Labor



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**Consumer Price Index for Energy and Food
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI CMSA
July 2008**

Energy prices in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint metropolitan area gained 1.0 percent in July, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. This contrasts with a decline of 2.9 percent in July 2007. Over the past 12 months, Detroit area energy costs jumped 24.1 percent after edging up a modest 0.2 percent in the 12-month period ended in July 2007.

According to Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa in Chicago, almost all of the July increase in the energy index was due to higher costs for utility (piped) gas service, more commonly called natural gas, which jumped 4.4 percent over the month. Among other energy related categories, electricity costs gained 0.5 percent while gasoline prices were virtually unchanged, edging up 0.1 percent.

Over the past 12 months, gasoline prices gained 33.7 percent, a much larger jump than the 1.0 percent gain in the 12-month period ending in July 2007 but in-line with the 31.1 percent July-July increase reported in 2006. The natural gas index advanced 19.1 percent for the year after declining 1.3 percent from July 2006 to July 2007. The electricity index rose 4.0 percent during the recent 12-month period, after declining 1.2 percent during the same period in 2007.

The food at home index (grocery food items) was 0.6 percent higher in July. The increase compares with a drop of 1.4 percent in July 2007. During the past year, the food at home index advanced 3.8 percent, a similar increase to the 3.1 annual gain noted in July 2007.

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Scheduled release date for August 2008 CPI:
Tuesday, September 16, 2008

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 Detroit 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 Detroit is (313) 226-7558.

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, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, also available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

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

Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	July 2007	May 2008	June 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	-	207.593	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	617.054	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	193.940	-	-	-	-
Food	-	193.850	-	-	-	-
Food at home	190.838	191.077	192.145	3.8	0.7	0.6
Food away from home	-	198.272	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	188.986	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	193.789	-	-	-	-
Shelter	216.099	216.245	215.055	-3	-5	-6
Rent of primary residence ¹	204.925	204.935	204.201	-7	-4	-4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	215.726	216.098	215.820	.7	.0	-1
Fuels and utilities	-	233.308	-	-	-	-
Household energy	189.025	197.989	203.002	11.6	7.4	2.5
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	190.155	199.201	204.246	11.2	7.4	2.5
Electricity ¹	147.235	160.828	161.668	4.0	9.8	.5
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	238.625	240.864	251.436	19.1	5.4	4.4
Household furnishings and operations	-	120.648	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	105.794	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	233.414	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	231.842	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	336.101	350.804	351.151	33.8	4.5	.1
Gasoline (all types)	334.434	349.042	349.372	33.7	4.5	.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	345.269	361.029	360.442	34.7	4.4	-2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	370.724	379.379	386.126	32.1	4.2	1.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	308.571	324.192	324.728	29.5	5.2	.2
Medical care	-	350.469	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	114.985	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	129.696	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	350.875	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	207.593	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	172.670	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	160.526	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	200.856	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	113.809	-	-	-	-
Services	-	244.490	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	201.815	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	207.189	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	161.801	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	198.255	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	200.158	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	283.795	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	236.422	-	-	-	-
Energy	259.373	271.089	273.921	24.1	5.6	1.0
All items less energy	-	203.183	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	205.678	-	-	-	-

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 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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