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**Consumer Price Index  
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA  
September 2008**

The Chicago-Gary-Kenosha Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) declined 0.2 percent in September, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the past 12 months, retail prices in the Chicago area were up 4.4 percent. The Chicago area (CPI-U) for September was 215.465 (1982-84=100).

Jay A. Mousa, regional commissioner for the bureau in Chicago, said that declines in the components for housing and transportation were responsible for the 0.2 percent decrease in the Chicago area all items CPI-U in September. The components for apparel, medical care, and education and communication were higher in September, partially offsetting these declines. Among the remaining consumer expenditure categories: other goods and services, food and beverages, and recreation recorded little or no change over the month.

The housing component was down 0.7 percent in September due to a 13.6 percent drop in the utility (pipe) gas service index and a 0.2 percent decline in the shelter index. Increases in the electricity index (5.2 percent) and household furnishings and operations index (1.0 percent) partially offset these declines. On an annual basis, the housing

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Changes from preceding month							12 mo. Ended Sep. '08
	2007	2008						
	Sep.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	
All items	0.3	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.8	-0.7	-0.2	4.4
Food & beverages	-1	.8	.7	-6	1.6	.9	.1	6.5
Housing	-5	.3	1.0	.5	.9	-1.6	-.7	2.5
Apparel	1.7	-2.6	.8	-4.5	-1.5	3.9	6.2	2.3
Transportation	.9	2.7	3.3	3.2	1.0	-2.5	-2.0	9.7
Medical care	2.7	-.2	.1	-.3	.3	-.4	.6	2.2
Recreation	1.6	-.4	.1	-.2	.2	.2	.0	2.4
Education & communication	1.0	-.1	-.3	.0	.2	1.6	1.1	3.8
Other goods & services	1.2	1.0	-.2	-.3	.4	.6	.3	3.1

component was up 2.5 percent. Most of this annual increase was the result of a 36.0 percent increase in the utility (pipe) gas service index. Over-the-year increases in the electricity index (6.7 percent) and household furnishings and operations index (2.9 percent) also contributed. Shelter costs were unchanged over the year.

The transportation component fell 2.0 percent in September. Gasoline prices were down 1.0 percent from August to September, but still stood 27.4 percent above their year ago levels. Transportation costs in general were up 9.7 percent from a year ago, more than double the 4.1 percent increase in the previous 12-month period ended in September 2007.

Apparel prices rose 6.2 percent during September. Higher price tags were noted on men's and boys' apparel and women's dresses and outerwear. Over the year, apparel prices were up 2.3 percent in the Chicago area.

The cost of medical care rose 0.6 percent during September and stood 2.2 percent higher than a year ago. The latest annual gain compares with annual average increases of 5.0 percent over the previous four September-September periods.

The education and communication component rose 1.1 percent in September, in-line with the 1.0 percent average increase for this month in the previous five years. This component increased 3.8 percent from a year ago.

The other goods and services component edged up 0.3 percent in September. Over the year, this component increased 3.1 percent.

Food and beverage prices in the Chicago area were nearly unchanged, increasing only 0.1 percent in September. The food at home index (grocery food items) was unchanged, but the food away from home index was up 0.3 percent. Alcoholic beverage prices were down 0.6 percent. Over the past 12 months, food and beverage prices gained 6.5 percent. The food at home index rose 7.0 percent while the food away from home index advanced 6.1 percent. Alcoholic beverage prices were up 6.4 percent for the year.

Recreation costs were unchanged in September. Over the year, recreation costs were up 2.4 percent following a 0.3 percent decline in the previous annual period.

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Scheduled release date for the October 2008 CPI:  
Wednesday, November 19, 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, the Midwest region, and the Chicago 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 Chicago is (312) 353-1880, menu option 2.

### 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**

**Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	217.459	215.971	215.465	4.4	-0.9	-0.2
All items (1967=100) .....	649.677	645.231	643.721	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	211.987	213.804	213.986	6.5	.9	.1
Food .....	210.910	212.877	213.230	6.6	1.1	.2
Food at home .....	217.123	219.159	219.218	7.0	1.0	.0
Food away from home .....	197.987	199.820	200.490	6.1	1.3	.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	225.839	226.253	224.798	6.4	-5	-6
Housing .....	224.164	220.573	219.013	2.5	-2.3	-7
Shelter .....	262.624	261.532	260.886	.0	-7	-2
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	263.668	264.592	266.148	3.2	.9	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	259.867	259.853	260.431	-6	.2	.2
Fuels and utilities .....	236.997	217.640	207.643	18.7	-12.4	-4.6
Household energy .....	224.915	204.059	193.287	20.0	-14.1	-5.3
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	229.405	208.008	196.944	19.9	-14.2	-5.3
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	143.292	140.745	148.109	6.7	3.4	5.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	347.739	297.343	256.868	36.0	-26.1	-13.6
Household furnishings and operations .....	108.916	108.004	109.093	2.9	.2	1.0
Apparel .....	87.323	90.727	96.386	2.3	10.4	6.2
Transportation .....	204.848	199.734	195.756	9.7	-4.4	-2.0
Private transportation .....	201.223	196.319	193.306	9.5	-3.9	-1.5
Motor fuel .....	370.491	349.724	346.009	27.3	-6.6	-1.1
Gasoline (all types) .....	367.527	346.872	343.403	27.4	-6.6	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	364.979	343.683	339.927	27.8	-6.9	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	378.210	359.118	356.145	26.7	-5.8	-8
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	343.316	325.395	323.051	25.7	-5.9	-7
Medical care .....	361.668	360.271	362.601	2.2	.3	.6
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	112.306	112.584	112.573	2.4	.2	.0
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	130.482	132.553	133.962	3.8	2.7	1.1
Other goods and services .....	331.710	333.600	334.518	3.1	.8	.3
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	217.459	215.971	215.465	4.4	-9	-2
Commodities .....	170.777	170.478	170.699	6.2	.0	.1
Commodities less food and beverages .....	147.336	146.084	146.316	6.1	-7	.2
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	195.343	193.009	195.223	10.7	-1	1.1
Durables .....	101.009	100.777	99.163	-1.9	-1.8	-1.6
Services .....	261.330	258.616	257.353	3.1	-1.5	-5
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	210.856	209.374	208.769	4.5	-1.0	-3
All items less shelter .....	202.559	200.924	200.466	6.5	-1.0	-2
Commodities less food .....	150.399	149.217	149.379	6.0	-7	.1
Nondurables .....	205.432	205.104	206.347	8.4	.4	.6
Nondurables less food .....	197.243	195.139	197.049	10.1	-1	1.0
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	273.714	268.979	266.936	6.9	-2.5	-8
Services less medical care services .....	253.343	250.534	249.008	3.1	-1.7	-6
Energy .....	279.819	259.359	251.624	24.0	-10.1	-3.0
All items less energy .....	212.626	213.044	213.265	2.4	.3	.1
All items less food and energy .....	213.700	213.809	214.005	1.7	.1	.1

<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.