



Consumer Price Index Midwest Region September 2008

The Consumer Price Index for the Midwest was unchanged in September after decreasing 0.3 percent in August. The index was up 4.8 percent from September 2007, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa, prices for housing and transportation declined for the second straight month. In September, these declines were offset by increases in other major expenditure categories. Energy prices, down 2.0 percent over the month, have advanced 21.2 percent since September 2007. The Midwest CPI for all items less energy was 0.2 percent higher over the month and was up 2.9 percent over the year.

Among the eight major expenditure categories, lower housing costs had the largest impact on the overall index in September 2008. The housing index decreased 0.6 percent over the month, largely attributable to a 9.6 percent fall in utility (piped) gas service costs. This followed an August decline of 6.8 percent and was the largest 1-month decrease in utility (piped) gas service costs since Midwest publication began in December 1977. The household fuels and utilities index registered a monthly decline of 3.4 percent in September with electricity prices up 0.5 percent. Shelter costs inched down 0.2 percent with price decreases in lodging away from home offsetting a 0.3 percent increase in rent of primary residence and a slight 0.2 percent rise in owners' equivalent rent of primary residence. From September 2007 to September 2008,

Table A. Percent changes in the Midwest CPI-U, (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	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.5	-0.3	0.0	4.8
Food & beverages	.5	.9	.4	.4	1.0	.8	.6	6.5
Housing	.0	.5	.4	1.2	.7	-.5	-.6	2.8
Apparel	6.1	1.5	-1.7	-3.5	-2.1	3.8	4.5	3.8
Transportation	1.0	2.2	3.8	2.4	.6	-2.6	-.8	10.1
Medical care	.5	.0	.1	-.1	.0	.2	.4	2.2
Recreation	.3	.1	.0	-.2	.4	.6	.4	3.5
Education & communication	.7	.2	.1	.2	.3	1.1	.6	3.2
Other goods & services	.3	.4	.4	.0	.4	-.3	.1	3.8

housing costs increased 2.8 percent in the Midwest. Shelter costs rose 0.9 percent and prices for household fuels and utilities were up 13.4 percent. Within fuels and utilities, electricity prices rose 5.9 percent over the year, and prices for utility (piped) gas service climbed 26.7 percent. The household furnishings and operations index was up 2.2 percent over the 12-month period.

Partially countering the declines in housing costs, the apparel index rose 4.5 percent in September. Apparel prices typically increase in September as retailers introduce fall merchandise. Prices for apparel were up 3.8 percent from the previous year.

The transportation index decreased 0.8 percent, largely reflecting a downturn in prices for new and used motor vehicles. Prices for new vehicles and for used cars and trucks declined in September, down 1.1 and 1.7 percent, respectively. Motor fuel costs were down 0.6 percent over the month. Overall, transportation prices have risen 10.1 percent since September 2007 led by an over-the-year increase of 26.7 percent in motor fuel costs. Prices for new vehicles were 1.7 percent lower and prices for used cars and trucks were down 2.4 percent.

The food and beverages index rose 0.6 percent in September with prices for food at home up 0.8 percent and prices for food away from home 0.4 percent higher. Prices for alcoholic beverages increased 0.4 percent over the month. From September 2007 to September 2008, prices for food and beverages rose 6.5 percent. Prices for food at home advanced by the largest amount since June 1981, increasing 8.1 percent over the year, and prices for food away from home rose 5.0 percent. Alcoholic beverages' prices increased 3.3 percent since September 2007.

The remaining four major expenditure categories—education and communication, medical care, recreation, and other goods and services—had less impact on the overall monthly index. The education and communication index rose 0.6 percent in September and 3.2 percent over the year. Medical care costs were up 0.4 percent over the month and were 2.2 percent higher than in September 2007. Prices for recreation rose 0.4 percent for the month and 3.5 percent over the year. Other goods and services prices were nearly unchanged in September, but advanced 3.8 percent over the year

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 209.252 in September. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$209.25 in September 2008. Because regional CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the regional indexes.

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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 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.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Midwest (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
Expenditure category						
All items	210.071	209.351	209.252	4.8	-0.4	0.0
All items (December 1977=100)	341.797	340.625	340.465	-	-	-
Food and beverages	208.290	209.866	211.122	6.5	1.4	.6
Food	208.043	209.703	210.986	6.8	1.4	.6
Food at home	204.951	207.019	208.642	8.1	1.8	.8
Food away from home	213.251	214.363	215.188	5.0	.9	.4
Alcoholic beverages	210.747	211.343	212.280	3.3	.7	.4
Housing	201.325	200.243	198.956	2.8	-1.2	-.6
Shelter	225.325	225.008	224.634	.9	-.3	-.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	215.119	215.500	216.235	2.3	.5	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	226.398	226.361	226.709	1.1	.1	.2
Fuels and utilities	237.361	230.905	223.127	13.4	-6.0	-3.4
Household energy	216.521	209.653	201.460	14.8	-7.0	-3.9
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	223.044	215.964	207.372	14.2	-7.0	-4.0
Electricity ¹	176.399	176.306	177.246	5.9	.5	.5
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	306.581	285.769	258.398	26.7	-15.7	-9.6
Household furnishings and operations	122.035	122.043	122.103	2.2	.1	.0
Apparel	106.538	110.610	115.572	3.8	8.5	4.5
Transportation	214.830	209.344	207.735	10.1	-3.3	-.8
Private transportation	209.241	203.665	202.521	9.9	-3.2	-.6
New and used motor vehicles ³	94.381	94.811	93.729	-.5	-.7	-1.1
New vehicles	130.011	129.273	127.903	-1.7	-1.6	-1.1
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	91.754	91.236	90.269	-1.5	-1.6	-1.1
New cars ⁴	130.562	130.500	129.700	1.1	-.7	-.6
Used cars and trucks	137.169	136.807	134.485	-2.4	-2.0	-1.7
Motor fuel	356.561	331.509	329.561	26.7	-7.6	-.6
Gasoline (all types)	354.832	329.824	328.783	26.9	-7.3	-.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	354.478	329.600	328.262	27.2	-7.4	-.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	387.033	358.368	358.501	26.9	-7.4	.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	342.794	319.999	319.110	25.5	-6.9	-.3
Medical care	360.652	361.277	362.755	2.2	.6	.4
Medical care commodities	288.927	290.348	291.854	-.2	1.0	.5
Medical care services	384.572	384.838	386.273	3.1	.4	.4
Professional services	329.555	329.199	330.155	3.2	.2	.3
Recreation ³	114.669	115.353	115.772	3.5	1.0	.4
Education and communication ³	124.922	126.263	127.070	3.2	1.7	.6
Other goods and services	336.042	334.948	335.242	3.8	-.2	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	210.071	209.351	209.252	4.8	-.4	.0
Commodities	176.363	175.181	175.847	6.7	-.3	.4
Commodities less food and beverages	159.028	156.687	157.086	6.9	-1.2	.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	209.180	204.675	206.256	11.7	-1.4	.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	275.739	265.716	265.132	14.1	-3.8	-.2
Durables	109.619	109.288	108.614	-.5	-.9	-.6
Services	245.216	244.983	244.079	3.3	-.5	-.4
Rent of shelter ²	231.661	231.331	230.940	.9	-.3	-.2
Transportation services	253.715	256.221	254.702	6.2	.4	-.6
Other services	287.999	290.333	291.722	3.7	1.3	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

Midwest (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
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	202.637	201.867	201.705	5.0	-0.5	-0.1
All items less food	210.336	209.215	208.884	4.4	-.7	-.2
All items less shelter	206.778	205.902	205.904	6.4	-.4	.0
Commodities less food	160.813	158.567	158.984	6.7	-1.1	.3
Nondurables	209.727	208.085	209.518	9.1	-.1	.7
Nondurables less food	208.948	204.786	206.322	11.1	-1.3	.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	268.150	259.260	258.835	13.1	-3.5	-.2
Services less rent of shelter ²	274.186	274.054	272.503	5.8	-.6	-.6
Services less medical care services	234.102	233.842	232.810	3.4	-.6	-.4
Energy	277.788	262.842	257.484	21.2	-7.3	-2.0
All items less energy	204.980	205.802	206.277	2.9	.6	.2
All items less food and energy	205.022	205.685	206.005	2.1	.5	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	137.820	138.621	139.408	1.5	1.2	.6
Energy commodities	355.244	330.744	328.589	26.7	-7.5	-.7
Services less energy services	248.977	249.519	249.482	2.4	.2	.0

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. Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Area	All items										
	Pricing schedule 1	Indexes				Percent change to Sep. 2008 from—			Percent change to Aug. 2008 from—		
		June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Aug. 2007	June 2008	July 2008
U.S. city average	M	218.815	219.964	219.086	218.783	4.9	-0.5	-0.1	5.4	0.1	-0.4
Region and area size²											
Northeast urban	M	232.649	234.545	233.788	232.841	5.2	-7	-4	5.5	.5	-3
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	234.518	236.460	236.107	235.314	4.9	-5	-3	5.3	.7	-1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	138.542	139.623	138.537	137.723	5.8	-1.4	-6	6.1	.0	-8
Midwest urban	M	208.968	210.071	209.351	209.252	4.8	-4	.0	5.4	.2	-3
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	209.813	211.003	210.341	210.283	4.5	-3	.0	5.3	.3	-3
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	134.018	134.595	133.969	133.982	5.1	-5	.0	5.6	.0	-5
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	205.122	206.435	206.251	205.522	5.1	-4	-4	5.9	.6	-1
South urban	M	212.324	213.304	212.387	212.650	5.4	-3	.1	5.6	.0	-4
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	214.359	215.373	214.496	214.854	5.2	-2	.2	5.4	.1	-4
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	134.980	135.643	135.004	135.093	5.3	-4	.1	5.6	.0	-5
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	214.739	215.274	214.655	215.258	7.1	.0	.3	6.9	.0	-3
West urban	M	223.040	223.867	222.823	222.132	4.3	-8	-3	4.9	-1	-5
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	226.767	227.562	226.541	225.910	4.4	-7	-3	5.0	-1	-4
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	135.283	136.021	135.207	134.834	4.5	-9	-3	4.9	-1	-6
Size classes											
A ⁴	M	199.840	200.941	200.278	199.982	4.7	-5	-1	5.2	.2	-3
B/C ³	M	135.330	136.055	135.315	135.160	5.2	-7	-1	5.5	.0	-5
D	M	211.989	212.555	212.138	211.740	5.4	-4	-2	5.9	.1	-2
Selected local areas⁵											
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	M	215.738	217.459	215.971	215.465	4.4	-9	-2	4.9	.1	-7
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA ...	M	229.033	229.886	228.484	227.449	4.5	-1.1	-5	5.1	-2	-6
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	M	238.580	240.273	240.550	240.089	5.2	-1	-2	5.4	.8	.1
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT	1	-	241.258	-	238.519	4.7	-1.1	-	-	-	-
Cleveland-Akron, OH	1	-	206.941	-	206.219	4.7	-3	-	-	-	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	-	206.413	-	205.883	5.7	-3	-	-	-	-
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV ⁶	1	-	142.065	-	142.036	5.5	.0	-	-	-	-
Atlanta, GA	2	212.032	-	211.404	-	-	-	-	5.0	-3	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	2	207.593	-	209.484	-	-	-	-	4.9	.9	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	2	193.567	-	192.723	-	-	-	-	4.9	-4	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	2	225.079	-	225.473	-	-	-	-	5.8	.2	-
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2	228.408	-	228.337	-	-	-	-	4.4	.0	-
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	2	225.181	-	225.411	-	-	-	-	4.2	.1	-
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA	2	228.068	-	227.745	-	-	-	-	5.4	-1	-

¹ Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all areas; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

M - Every month.
1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November.
2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.

² Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

³ Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

⁵ In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Phoenix-Mesa, AZ;

Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

⁶ Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

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