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Consumer Price Index Midwest Region August 2004

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) edged-up 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This small rise follows a similar 0.2 percent gain in June and a 0.1 percent dip in July. The Midwest CPI-U stood at 183.3 (1982-84=100) in August. Over the past 12 months, retail prices rose 2.5 percent. This was in line with annual August-August gains averaging 2.3 percent over the previous five years (1999-2003). According to Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa, small declines in the heavily weighted housing and transportation components offset small to moderate increases in the remaining six major expenditure categories.

Food and beverage prices crept up 0.1 percent in August. The cost of food at home (grocery food) was unchanged while prices for food away from home increased 0.3 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices also increased 0.3 percent in August following a 0.7 percent decrease in July. For the year, the food and beverages component advanced 3.2 percent, with a 3.4 percent increase in grocery food prices and a 3.0 percent rise in prices for food away from home. Alcoholic beverages costs rose 2.8 percent over the year.

Table A. Percent changes in the Midwest CPI-U, (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Changes from preceding month							12 mo. ended Aug.'04
	2003	2004						
	Aug.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	
All items	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.2	-0.1	0.1	2.5
Food & beverages	.4	-.2	-.3	1.2	.2	.2	.1	3.2
Housing	-.1	.6	.1	.4	1.2	.2	-.1	2.3
Apparel	1.1	1.8	.9	-.5	-3.4	-3.1	2.2	.6
Transportation	1.5	.4	1.0	2.4	-.8	-.7	-.2	2.6
Medical care	.2	.6	.5	.2	.1	.4	.5	5.4
Recreation	0	.6	.3	-.1	.2	-.4	0	.9
Education & communication	.2	-.2	.1	-.4	.1	0	.5	2.0
Other goods & services	.2	.1	.5	.0	-.3	.8	.1	2.0

The housing component edged down 0.1 percent over the month. Shelter costs and specifically, rent of primary residence, each declined 0.1 percent while the index for owners' equivalent rent of primary residence inched up 0.1 percent. Prices for fuels and utilities increased 0.4 percent in August, with electricity costs up 0.3 percent and prices for utility (piped) gas service up 0.1 percent. The household furnishings and operations index was down 1.0 percent after decreasing 0.5 percent in July. For the year, housing costs were up 2.3 percent. Shelter costs increased 2.4 percent and fuels and utilities prices rose 5.6 percent. Within the latter category, electricity prices were up 1.6 percent while prices for utility (piped) gas service jumped 10.8 percent from a year ago.

Apparel prices rose 2.2 percent in August. This compares with seasonal August gains of 1.9 percent in 2002 and 1.1 percent in 2003 and follows large seasonal declines of 3.4 percent in June and 3.1 percent in July. Over the year, apparel prices were up 0.6 percent. This small gain follows annual August-August declines of 3.2 and 4.3 percent in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

The transportation component decreased 0.2 percent in August following a 0.7 percent decline in July. Prices for new vehicles decreased 0.9 percent while used car and truck prices rose 1.4 percent. The cost of gasoline declined for the third consecutive month, falling 0.6 percent in August and a total of 6.4 percent over the summer (June-August). Compared with a year earlier, the transportation component was 2.6 percent higher. Gasoline prices remain 14.1 percent above their year-ago level.

Medical care costs increased 0.5 percent over the month. Medical care commodities prices increased 0.1 percent and the cost of medical care services rose 0.6 percent. Within medical care services, costs for professional services were up 0.3 percent. Over the year, medical care costs rose 5.4 percent, with prices for medical care commodities up 2.9 percent and medical care service costs up 6.3 percent.

Recreation costs, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, remained unchanged in August. The recreation component increased 0.9 percent over the year. The education and communication component rose 0.5 percent in August and was up 2.0 percent over the year. The other goods and services component, which include prices for tobacco and other smoking products, increased 0.1 percent in August and was 2.0 percent higher for the year.

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Scheduled release date for the September 2004 CPI:
Tuesday, October 19, 2004

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.

BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 300 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 27 metropolitan areas. To receive a catalog of available documents by fax, call (312) 353-1880, select menu option 1, and order document 1000 when prompted.

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.

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

Midwest¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2004	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Aug. 2003	June 2004	July 2004
Expenditure category						
All items	183.3	183.2	183.3	2.5	0.0	0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	298.2	298.0	298.2	-	-	-
Food and beverages	181.1	181.5	181.7	3.2	.3	.1
Food	180.3	180.8	181.0	3.3	.4	.1
Food at home	178.4	178.7	178.7	3.4	.2	.0
Food away from home	183.7	184.5	185.0	3.0	.7	.3
Alcoholic beverages	191.1	189.8	190.3	2.8	-.4	.3
Housing	181.0	181.4	181.2	2.3	.1	-.1
Shelter	209.8	210.4	210.2	2.4	.2	-.1
Rent of primary residence ²	199.1	199.3	199.2	1.5	.1	-.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{2 3}	212.9	213.2	213.4	1.6	.2	.1
Fuels and utilities	166.6	167.7	168.3	5.6	1.0	.4
Fuels	147.6	148.7	149.2	5.8	1.1	.3
Gas (piped) and electricity ²	154.4	155.6	155.9	5.5	1.0	.2
Electricity ²	140.3	140.4	140.8	1.6	.4	.3
Utility (piped) gas service ²	181.6	184.6	184.7	10.8	1.7	.1
Household furnishings and operations	119.6	119.0	117.8	-2.3	-1.5	-1.0
Apparel	112.1	108.6	111.0	.6	-1.0	2.2
Transportation	164.3	163.2	162.9	2.6	-.9	-.2
Private transportation	160.2	159.0	158.9	2.8	-.8	-.1
New and used motor vehicles ⁴	93.2	93.3	93.1	-2.7	-.1	-.2
New vehicles	133.7	132.5	131.3	-.9	-1.8	-.9
New cars and trucks ^{4 5}	94.2	93.4	92.5	-1.0	-1.8	-1.0
New cars ⁵	128.6	126.9	125.9	-1.0	-2.1	-.8
Used cars and trucks	130.8	132.3	134.1	-6.7	2.5	1.4
Motor fuel	172.5	166.5	165.5	14.1	-4.1	-.6
Gasoline (all types)	171.7	165.7	164.7	14.1	-4.1	-.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁵	170.7	164.7	163.6	14.2	-4.2	-.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{5 6}	186.9	180.0	179.7	14.2	-3.9	-.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁵	171.2	166.3	165.1	13.3	-3.6	-.7
Medical care	306.6	307.7	309.1	5.4	.8	.5
Medical care commodities	267.5	267.2	267.4	2.9	.0	.1
Medical care services	318.1	319.8	321.6	6.3	1.1	.6
Professional services	284.8	285.5	286.3	5.6	.5	.3
Recreation ⁴	109.5	109.1	109.1	.9	-.4	.0
Education and communication ⁴	112.5	112.5	113.1	2.0	.5	.5
Other goods and services	292.3	294.7	295.0	2.0	.9	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	183.3	183.2	183.3	2.5	.0	.1
Commodities	151.2	150.1	150.2	1.7	-.7	.1
Commodities less food and beverages	135.2	133.5	133.6	.8	-1.2	.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	157.2	154.4	155.1	4.2	-1.3	.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	187.5	185.1	184.7	5.7	-1.5	-.2
Durables	111.4	110.8	110.3	-3.3	-1.0	-.5
Services	216.8	217.6	217.8	3.1	.5	.1
Rent of shelter ³	215.6	216.2	215.9	2.4	.1	-.1
Transportation services	224.8	226.4	226.0	1.9	.5	-.2
Other services	255.1	255.7	256.7	3.1	.6	.4

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

Midwest¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2004	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Aug. 2003	June 2004	July 2004
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	177.1	177.0	177.0	2.3	-0.1	0.0
All items less food	183.7	183.5	183.6	2.3	-.1	.1
All items less shelter	175.6	175.2	175.4	2.6	-.1	.1
Commodities less food	137.1	135.4	135.5	.8	-1.2	.1
Nondurables	169.2	167.9	168.4	3.8	-.5	.3
Nondurables less food	159.1	156.4	157.0	4.0	-1.3	.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	186.9	184.7	184.4	5.4	-1.3	-.2
Services less rent of shelter ³	230.2	231.2	231.8	3.8	.7	.3
Services less medical care services	208.3	209.1	209.1	2.8	.4	.0
Energy	158.2	156.1	155.9	9.6	-1.5	-.1
All items less energy	188.2	188.2	188.4	1.8	.1	.1
All items less food and energy	190.2	190.2	190.4	1.6	.1	.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	136.1	135.1	135.2	-1.4	-.7	.1
Energy commodities	171.6	165.8	165.1	14.2	-3.8	-.4
Services less energy services	225.1	225.8	226.0	2.9	.4	.1

¹ The 'North Central' region has been renamed the 'Midwest' region by the Census Bureau. It is composed of the same geographic entities.

² This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

³ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁵ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁶ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

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 Aug. 2004 from—			Percent change to July 2004 from—		
		May 2004	June 2004	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Aug. 2003	June 2004	July 2004	July 2003	May 2004	June 2004
U.S. city average	M	189.1	189.7	189.4	189.5	2.7	-0.1	0.1	3.0	0.2	-0.2
Region and area size²											
Northeast urban	M	199.9	201.1	201.0	201.0	3.4	.0	.0	3.9	.6	.0
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	202.0	203.3	203.0	203.1	3.3	-1	.0	3.8	.5	-1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	118.3	118.7	119.2	118.9	3.9	.2	-.3	4.1	.8	.4
Midwest urban	M	182.9	183.3	183.2	183.3	2.5	.0	.1	2.9	.2	-1
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	185.0	185.3	185.4	185.6	2.4	.2	.1	2.7	.2	.1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	116.4	116.8	116.3	116.5	2.6	-3	.2	2.8	-.1	-4
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	176.0	176.9	177.1	176.3	2.4	-3	-.5	3.3	.6	.1
South urban	M	182.0	182.9	182.6	182.6	2.6	-2	.0	3.0	.3	-2
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	183.4	184.3	183.7	183.7	2.2	-3	.0	2.6	.2	-3
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	116.4	117.0	116.9	116.9	3.1	-1	.0	3.4	.4	-1
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	179.4	180.5	180.1	180.0	2.3	-3	-.1	2.9	.4	-2
West urban	M	193.4	193.3	192.9	193.0	2.0	-2	.1	2.4	-.3	-2
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	195.9	195.9	195.4	195.5	2.0	-2	.1	2.4	-.3	-3
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	118.2	117.9	117.9	118.1	2.3	.2	.2	2.4	-.3	.0
Size classes											
A ⁴	M	172.9	173.4	173.1	173.2	2.5	-1	.1	2.9	.1	-2
B/C ³	M	117.0	117.3	117.3	117.3	3.0	.0	.0	3.3	.3	.0
D	M	180.9	181.8	181.3	181.0	2.2	-4	-2	3.0	.2	-3
Selected local areas⁵											
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	M	188.7	189.1	189.2	190.2	3.1	.6	.5	2.8	.3	.1
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA ...	M	193.3	193.7	193.4	193.1	3.3	-3	-2	3.8	.1	-2
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	M	204.4	206.0	205.5	205.7	3.3	-1	.1	3.9	.5	-2
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT	1	208.7	-	208.9	-	-	-	-	2.9	.1	-
Cleveland-Akron, OH	1	181.3	-	181.7	-	-	-	-	3.2	.2	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	179.1	-	179.1	-	-	-	-	1.5	.0	-
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV ⁶	1	118.9	-	120.2	-	-	-	-	2.9	1.1	-
Atlanta, GA	2	-	185.7	-	184.1	1.3	-9	-	-	-	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	2	-	185.8	-	186.8	1.7	.5	-	-	-	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	2	-	169.3	-	169.1	3.0	-1	-	-	-	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	2	-	185.6	-	185.1	2.3	-3	-	-	-	-
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2	-	198.0	-	199.1	4.2	.6	-	-	-	-
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	2	-	199.0	-	198.7	1.2	-2	-	-	-	-
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA	2	-	195.3	-	194.6	.1	-4	-	-	-	-

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.