

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL
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**Consumer Price Index for Energy and Food
Cleveland-Akron, OH CMSA
August 2004**

Energy costs in the Cleveland-Akron area increased 4.0 percent in August, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over the past 12 months, energy costs rose 7.7 percent and were up 27.4 percent from their most recent August low in 2002. The cost of grocery food (food at home) gained 0.2 percent from July to August. Grocery food costs rose 1.0 percent over the past year following a 4.5 percent jump during the previous 12-month period ended in August 2003.

Nearly all of the latest monthly rise in energy costs for the Cleveland area was attributed to a 13.2 percent hike in the cost of utility (piped) gas service. Over the past year, the utility (piped) gas service index rose 2.5 percent after posting a 43.1 percent hike in the previous 12 months ended August 2003. Electricity costs rose 0.3 percent in August, and were up the same amount over the past year. Gasoline costs edged up 0.2 percent in the Cleveland area in August. Over the year, gasoline prices jumped 16.4 percent, the largest August-August increase in five years.

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

CPI HOTLINE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Cleveland 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 Cleveland is (216) 522-3852.

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.

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

Cleveland-Akron, OH (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	-	181.7	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	582.4	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	187.6	-	-	-	-
Food	-	190.4	-	-	-	-
Food at home	184.7	184.4	184.7	1.0	0.0	0.2
Food away from home	-	202.4	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	157.6	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	180.2	-	-	-	-
Shelter	204.8	205.5	205.0	1.9	.1	-.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	199.1	199.3	200.5	2.3	.7	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	203.5	203.9	203.9	1.7	.2	.0
Fuels and utilities	-	167.1	-	-	-	-
Fuels	162.9	163.9	175.3	2.3	7.6	7.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	164.9	165.9	177.5	2.0	7.6	7.0
Electricity ¹	151.0	151.1	151.5	.3	.3	.3
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	180.0	181.9	206.0	2.5	14.4	13.2
Household furnishings and operations	-	122.5	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	111.5	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	166.6	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	167.0	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	186.5	186.9	187.3	16.4	.4	.2
Gasoline (all types)	185.1	185.5	185.9	16.4	.4	.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	180.1	180.5	180.2	16.5	.1	-.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	186.3	186.7	188.9	16.3	1.4	1.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	181.3	181.6	182.1	15.8	.4	.3
Medical care	-	267.7	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	102.5	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	104.8	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	292.5	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	181.7	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	156.9	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	139.3	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	160.4	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	112.9	-	-	-	-
Services	-	207.2	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	177.7	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	174.1	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	140.0	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	174.6	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	159.8	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	213.2	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	202.8	-	-	-	-
Energy	171.7	172.5	179.4	7.7	4.5	4.0
All items less energy	-	184.6	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	183.4	-	-	-	-

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.