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## **Consumer Price Index, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington — September 2020** **Area prices were up 2.1 percent over the past two months, up 1.9 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 2.1 percent for the two months ending in September 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that food prices increased 0.2 percent and the energy index was up 2.5 percent over the two-month period. The all items less food and energy index rose 2.4 percent from July to September due to higher prices for recreation and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.9 percent. (See [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent over the year. Food prices rose 3.5 percent. Energy prices declined 7.2 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

### **Food**

Food prices rose 0.2 percent for the two months ending in September. Prices for food at home (groceries) decreased 0.4 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) advanced 1.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.5 percent. Prices for food at home increased 2.1 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 5.2 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index rose 2.5 percent for the two months ending in September. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for utility (piped) gas service (+12.6 percent). Prices for electricity rose 1.0 percent, and prices for gasoline rose 0.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices declined 7.2 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-20.7 percent). Prices paid for utility (piped) gas service increased 15.9 percent, and prices for electricity rose 5.6 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for recreation (+18.0 percent) and apparel (+13.6 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for shelter (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (+2.6 percent) and medical care (+4.9 percent).

**Table A. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.3		0.4	1.4	0.6	3.0
March .....	0.5		1.4	2.3	-0.3	1.2
May.....	1.0		1.0	2.3	-0.1	0.0
July .....	0.3		0.3	2.2	-0.1	-0.3
September.....	0.3		-0.2	1.7	2.1	1.9
November.....	-1.2	1.3	-0.2	2.8		

**The November 2020 Consumer Price Index for Minneapolis is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 10, 2020.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on September 2020 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in September was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm).

### **Technical Note**

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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately

22,000 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.

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/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

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. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, and Wright Counties in Minnesota; and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Sep. 2019	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	250.986	-	256.280	1.9	2.1	-
All items (1967=100).....	788.729	-	805.368	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	294.397	-	294.918	3.3	0.2	-
Food.....	283.005	-	283.658	3.5	0.2	-
Food at home.....	253.447	254.864	252.487	2.1	-0.4	-0.9
Cereals and bakery products.....	270.094	-	276.343	0.3	2.3	-
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs.....	277.130	-	276.183	4.5	-0.3	-
Dairy and related products.....	264.473	-	264.724	-4.1	0.1	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	359.374	-	352.259	3.5	-2.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	163.828	-	156.493	2.1	-4.5	-
Other food at home.....	198.413	-	201.020	2.6	1.3	-
Food away from home.....	325.283	-	328.766	5.2	1.1	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	393.211	-	391.679	1.8	-0.4	-
Housing.....	246.104	-	246.285	3.4	0.1	-
Shelter.....	291.762	289.648	290.367	2.6	-0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....	298.804	299.202	300.048	3.9	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	307.415	307.752	308.383	4.3	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3).....	307.415	307.752	308.383	4.3	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	218.640	-	226.297	8.3	3.5	-
Household energy.....	194.424	195.985	203.242	9.8	4.5	3.7
Energy services(2).....	198.713	200.273	207.566	9.4	4.5	3.6
Electricity(2).....	290.734	289.915	293.544	5.6	1.0	1.3
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	117.992	121.863	132.874	15.9	12.6	9.0
Household furnishings and operations.....	125.994	-	127.593	5.0	1.3	-
Apparel.....	125.388	-	142.491	-2.5	13.6	-
Transportation.....	189.468	-	189.804	-5.2	0.2	-
Private transportation.....	179.548	-	180.796	-2.6	0.7	-
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	92.463	-	93.893	4.0	1.5	-
New vehicles(1).....	157.186	-	157.016	1.2	-0.1	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	280.224	-	302.944	11.7	8.1	-
Motor fuel.....	169.890	167.393	170.469	-20.6	0.3	1.8
Gasoline (all types).....	170.014	167.388	170.683	-20.7	0.4	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5).....	169.637	167.039	170.471	-20.8	0.5	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6).....	179.986	173.849	177.798	-19.8	-1.2	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5).....	217.841	215.106	217.007	-19.1	-0.4	0.9
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	484.336	-	465.057	0.5	-4.0	-
Medical care.....	574.841	-	593.138	4.9	3.2	-
Recreation(4).....	112.540	-	132.760	1.1	18.0	-
Education and communication(4).....	136.153	-	139.054	1.2	2.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,091.161	-	1,127.579	3.5	3.3	-
Other goods and services.....	389.045	-	396.550	4.7	1.9	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	250.986	-	256.280	1.9	2.1	-
Commodities.....	186.613	-	190.200	0.6	1.9	-
Commodities less food and beverages.....	140.759	-	145.012	-1.1	3.0	-
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	180.338	-	189.342	-3.7	5.0	-
Durables.....	105.756	-	106.525	2.3	0.7	-
Services.....	308.302	-	315.141	2.7	2.2	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Sep. 2019	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	236.421	-	241.158	1.6	2.0	-
All items less shelter .....	234.579	-	242.734	1.6	3.5	-
Commodities less food .....	149.282	-	153.528	-0.9	2.8	-
Nondurables .....	232.722	-	238.296	-0.1	2.4	-
Nondurables less food.....	193.934	-	202.653	-3.3	4.5	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	338.523	-	356.736	2.9	5.4	-
Services less medical care services.....	284.320	-	290.041	2.3	2.0	-
Energy .....	184.105	183.538	188.681	-7.2	2.5	2.8
All items less energy .....	261.326	-	266.784	2.5	2.1	-
All items less food and energy .....	258.232	-	264.385	2.4	2.4	-

Footnotes

(1) Index on an April 1978=100 base.

(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 on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(6) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.