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## Consumer Price Index Cleveland-Akron, Ohio CMSA September 2004

The Cleveland-Akron, Ohio Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 1.2 percent from July to September, according to a report issued today by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The September All Items CPI-U for the Cleveland-Akron area stood at 183.8 (1982-84 = 100), 3.0 percent higher than a year ago. The annual gain follows a smaller 2.2 percent increase for the previous 12 month period ended in September 2003.

A seasonal jump in the apparel component and large hike in utility natural gas prices were responsible for about two-thirds of the latest increase in the Cleveland area CPI-U, commented Jay A. Mousa, regional commissioner of the Bureau's Chicago office. The components for education and communication and food and beverages also contributed to the overall rise but with lesser impact. Because of the gain in utility gas service costs, energy prices were 3.5 percent higher than in July. Factoring out the cost of energy the CPI-U rose 0.9 percent. Transportation was the only major component to decline.

The housing component rose 0.9 percent from July-September primarily as a result of a seasonal 13.2 percent hike in the cost of utility natural gas service. The large increase

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U for the Cleveland-Akron, OH CMSA  
(not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Percent changes from 2 months ago							12 mo. ended Sep. '04
	2003		2004					
	Sep.	Nov.	Jan.	Mar.	May	July	Sep.	
All items	1.4	-0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.2	1.2	3.0
Food & beverages	.1	-.9	2.6	-.3	1.5	-.6	1.0	3.3
Housing	1.1	-1.2	-.4	1.4	.0	1.7	.9	2.4
Apparel	23.1	-3.0	-.8	1.1	-5.3	-.9	9.7	.1
Transportation	.5	1.3	.5	.7	4.0	-1.5	-.2	4.7
Medical care	.9	.6	na	na	.3	-.1	.1	2.4
Recreation	-.5	-.8	.8	2.7	.2	-1.3	.9	2.4
Education & communication	1.2	.2	.2	-.5	-.9	.5	2.4	1.9
Other goods & services	.3	.4	1.2	1.4	.6	.5	1.1	5.3

na = not available

in utility natural gas service charges compares with July-September gains of 27.4 percent in 2002 and 15.1 percent in 2003. Over the year, declines in November 2003 and in March and May 2004 left the Utility natural gas service index up only 2.5 percent from September 2003. This is in sharp contrast to a 43.1 percent jump in the previous year. Electricity cost rose a slight 0.2 percent. Shelter costs moved ahead 0.1 percent led by a 0.6 percent gain in the cost of residential rent. For the latest 12 months, the housing component rose 2.4 percent. This was similar to annual increases averaging 1.6 percent over the previous three years.

Typically apparel prices rise between July and September and this year was no exception, as apparel prices gained 9.7 percent. This component moved 23.1 percent higher during the same period in 2003 and posted July-September gains averaging 10.7 percent from 1999-2002. In spite of the latest hike, apparel prices were up slightly posting a 0.1 percent annual gain but dropped 6.2 percent below their most recent September high in 2001.

The component for food and beverages rose 1.0 percent from July to September. The cost of food at home (grocery food) gained 0.7 percent and the cost of food away from home rose 0.9 percent. Alcoholic beverage prices jumped 3.0 percent for the two months and were up 3.0 percent for the year. The overall food and beverages component was 3.3 percent higher for the 12-months. This compares with annual gains averaging 1.7 percent over the previous four September to September periods.

The education and communication component advanced 2.4 percent during this bimonthly period primarily due to higher educational expenses including costs for tuition and other school fees and child care. This recent increase is below the 1.2 percent gain during the same period in 2003 but equals the July-September rise in 2002. On an annual basis, the education and communication component rose 1.9 percent, up from a 0.3 percent gain a year ago.

The recreation component increased 0.9 percent between July and September and was 2.4 percent higher than 12 months ago as higher prices were noted on selected sporting good items. This recent annual gain compares with an increase of 1.5 percent for the same period in 2003.

The other goods and services component, which includes tobacco and smoking products, gained 1.1 percent from July to September and was 5.3 percent higher for the year.

Medical care costs remained fairly stable between July and September, gaining a modest 0.1 percent. For the 12 months, Cleveland area medical care costs were 2.4 percent higher. This annual rise was below the 6.3 percent September-September gain in 2003, but close to annual gains averaging 2.8 percent between September 2000 and September 2002.

The transportation component was the only component to register a decline (-0.2 percent) between July and September. Gasoline prices fell 0.8 percent, almost offsetting higher prices for new and used motor vehicles. This recent drop in the gasoline index follows a July-September hike of 11.3 percent a year ago. For the latest 12-months,

gasoline prices were up 9.8 percent and 88.6 percent above their most recent September low in 1998. The overall transportation component was 4.7 percent above its year ago level primarily due to higher gasoline prices.

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Scheduled release date for the October 2004 CPI:  
Wednesday, November 17, 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 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](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**

**Cleveland-Akron, OH** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Sep. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	181.7	-	183.8	3.0	1.2	-
All items (1967=100) .....	582.4	-	589.0	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	187.6	-	189.4	3.3	1.0	-
Food .....	190.4	-	192.0	3.3	.8	-
Food at home .....	184.4	184.7	185.7	4.0	.7	0.5
Food away from home .....	202.4	-	204.3	2.4	.9	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	157.6	-	162.3	3.0	3.0	-
Housing .....	180.2	-	181.9	2.4	.9	-
Shelter .....	205.5	205.0	205.7	2.6	.1	.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	199.3	200.5	200.4	1.8	.6	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	203.9	203.9	203.9	1.2	.0	.0
Fuels and utilities .....	167.1	-	176.7	2.4	5.7	-
Fuels .....	163.9	175.3	175.3	2.4	7.0	.0
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	165.9	177.5	177.4	2.0	6.9	-1
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	151.1	151.5	151.4	.3	.2	-1
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	181.9	206.0	206.0	2.5	13.2	.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	122.5	-	122.4	-.3	-.1	-
Apparel .....	111.5	-	122.3	.1	9.7	-
Transportation .....	166.6	-	166.2	4.7	-.2	-
Private transportation .....	167.0	-	167.2	5.0	.1	-
Motor fuel .....	186.9	187.3	185.5	9.8	-.7	-1.0
Gasoline (all types) .....	185.5	185.9	184.1	9.8	-.8	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	180.5	180.2	178.3	9.5	-1.2	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	186.7	188.9	187.3	10.2	.3	-.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	181.6	182.1	181.1	10.7	-.3	-.5
Medical care .....	267.7	-	267.9	2.4	.1	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	102.5	-	103.4	2.4	.9	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	104.8	-	107.3	1.9	2.4	-
Other goods and services .....	292.5	-	295.8	5.3	1.1	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	181.7	-	183.8	3.0	1.2	-
Commodities .....	156.9	-	159.3	2.6	1.5	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	139.3	-	141.8	2.2	1.8	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	160.4	-	165.1	3.3	2.9	-
Durables .....	112.9	-	113.2	.4	.3	-
Services .....	207.2	-	209.1	3.3	.9	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	177.7	-	179.8	3.0	1.2	-
All items less shelter .....	174.1	-	176.9	3.1	1.6	-
Commodities less food .....	140.0	-	142.6	2.1	1.9	-
Nondurables .....	174.6	-	178.0	3.3	1.9	-
Nondurables less food .....	159.8	-	164.4	3.2	2.9	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	213.2	-	216.9	4.2	1.7	-
Services less medical care services .....	202.8	-	204.8	3.4	1.0	-
Energy .....	172.5	179.4	178.6	5.2	3.5	-.4
All items less energy .....	184.6	-	186.2	2.6	.9	-
All items less food and energy .....	183.4	-	185.0	2.5	.9	-

<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.