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Consumer Price Index Midwest Region September 2004

The Consumer Price Index for the Midwest increased 0.2 percent in September, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Jay A. Mousa, increasing prices for apparel, due in part to seasonal changes, had the largest impact on the index. The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 183.6 (1982-84=100) in September. Retail prices in the Midwest rose 2.3 percent over the past 12 months. This was up from annual gains averaging 1.4 percent over the previous two years.

Apparel prices rose 5.5 percent in September following a 2.2 percent increase in August. Apparel prices have risen each September since monthly publication of the index began in 1987. Over the previous five years the September increase has averaged 4.9 percent. Over the past 12 months, apparel prices were down 0.8 percent due to sale prices last Christmas season (November-January) and summer (May-July).

The education and communication component increased 1.5 percent in September after rising 0.5 percent in August. During five of the past seven years, the largest monthly increase in the education and communication component occurred in September and averaged 1.4 percent. The education and communication component was up 2.0 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 Sep.'04
	2003	2004						
	Sep.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	
All items	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.2	2.3
Food & beverages	0	-.3	1.2	.2	.2	.1	-.2	3.0
Housing	-.1	.1	.4	1.2	.2	-.1	-.2	2.2
Apparel	7.0	.9	-.5	-3.4	-3.1	2.2	5.5	-.8
Transportation	.1	1.0	2.4	-.8	-.7	-.2	-.4	2.1
Medical care	.3	.5	.2	.1	.4	.5	.3	5.4
Recreation	.1	.3	-.1	.2	-.4	0	.1	.9
Education & communication	1.5	.1	-.4	.1	0	.5	1.5	2.0
Other goods & services	.3	.5	.0	-.3	.8	.1	.2	2.0

The transportation component decreased for the fourth straight month, falling 0.4 percent in September. Gasoline prices continued to decrease in September, falling 1.5 percent. Gasoline prices decreased 7.8 percent since May after advancing 38.4 percent in the first five months of 2004. Prices for new vehicles decreased 0.9 percent in September. This was in contrast to a 2.1 percent gain in prices for used cars and trucks. Over the year, transportation costs were up 2.1 percent led by a 10.0 percent net gain in gasoline prices. This compares to a 17.9 percent gasoline price hike in the previous 12 months.

The housing component edged down 0.2 percent in September following a decrease of 0.1 percent in August. The index for shelter was unchanged. Rent of primary residence rose 0.3 percent while owners' equivalent rent of primary residence inched up 0.1 percent. The fuels and utilities index was down 1.2 percent after increasing 0.4 percent in August. Prices for electricity were down 0.1 percent and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 3.6 percent. The household furnishings and operations index was up 0.1 percent for the month. Over the past 12 months, the housing component increased 2.2 percent. Shelter costs increased 2.4 percent and fuels and utilities costs rose 4.3 percent. Electricity prices were up 1.4 percent over the year, while the cost of utility (piped) gas service rose 7.2 percent.

Food and beverage prices fell 0.2 percent in September as declining prices for food at home (grocery food) offset increases in the cost of food away from home and alcoholic beverages. Grocery food prices fell 0.7 percent after remaining unchanged in August. The cost of food away from home advanced 0.4 percent in September after rising 0.3 percent the prior month. Alcoholic beverages prices increased 1.1 percent over the month. For the year, the food and beverages component was up 3.0 percent as the cost of grocery food gained 2.8 percent and the cost of food away from home increased 3.3 percent. Alcoholic beverage prices were also up 3.3 percent over the year.

Medical care costs increased 0.3 percent over the month. Prices of medical care commodities increased 0.4 percent and the cost of medical care services rose 0.3 percent. Within medical care services, costs for professional services were up 0.2 percent. Over the year, the medical care component rose 5.4 percent as prices for medical care commodities increased 2.6 percent and the cost of medical care services advanced 6.3 percent.

Recreation costs, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, edged up 0.1 percent in September and were up 0.9 percent over the year. The other goods and services component, which include prices for tobacco and other smoking products, rose 0.2 percent in September and gained 2.0 percent for the year.

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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, 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, 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

Midwest¹ (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
Expenditure category						
All items	183.2	183.3	183.6	2.3	0.2	0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	298.0	298.2	298.8	-	-	-
Food and beverages	181.5	181.7	181.4	3.0	-.1	-.2
Food	180.8	181.0	180.5	3.0	-.2	-.3
Food at home	178.7	178.7	177.4	2.8	-.7	-.7
Food away from home	184.5	185.0	185.7	3.3	.7	.4
Alcoholic beverages	189.8	190.3	192.3	3.3	1.3	1.1
Housing	181.4	181.2	180.8	2.2	-.3	-.2
Shelter	210.4	210.2	210.1	2.4	-.1	.0
Rent of primary residence ²	199.3	199.2	199.7	1.4	.2	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{2 3}	213.2	213.4	213.6	1.5	.2	.1
Fuels and utilities	167.7	168.3	166.2	4.3	-.9	-1.2
Fuels	148.7	149.2	146.9	4.4	-1.2	-1.5
Gas (piped) and electricity ²	155.6	155.9	153.3	3.9	-1.5	-1.7
Electricity ²	140.4	140.8	140.6	1.4	.1	-.1
Utility (piped) gas service ²	184.6	184.7	178.0	7.2	-3.6	-3.6
Household furnishings and operations	119.0	117.8	117.9	-1.8	-.9	.1
Apparel	108.6	111.0	117.1	-8	7.8	5.5
Transportation	163.2	162.9	162.2	2.1	-.6	-.4
Private transportation	159.0	158.9	158.4	2.4	-.4	-.3
New and used motor vehicles ⁴	93.3	93.1	93.2	-1.5	-.1	.1
New vehicles	132.5	131.3	130.1	-1.8	-1.8	-.9
New cars and trucks ^{4 5}	93.4	92.5	91.7	-1.8	-1.8	-.9
New cars ⁵	126.9	125.9	124.6	-1.9	-1.8	-1.0
Used cars and trucks	132.3	134.1	136.9	-1.8	3.5	2.1
Motor fuel	166.5	165.5	163.0	10.0	-2.1	-1.5
Gasoline (all types)	165.7	164.7	162.3	10.0	-2.1	-1.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁵	164.7	163.6	161.2	10.2	-2.1	-1.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{5 6}	180.0	179.7	176.6	9.2	-1.9	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁵	166.3	165.1	162.7	9.2	-2.2	-1.5
Medical care	307.7	309.1	310.0	5.4	.7	.3
Medical care commodities	267.2	267.4	268.4	2.6	.4	.4
Medical care services	319.8	321.6	322.5	6.3	.8	.3
Professional services	285.5	286.3	287.0	5.7	.5	.2
Recreation ⁴	109.1	109.1	109.2	.9	.1	.1
Education and communication ⁴	112.5	113.1	114.8	2.0	2.0	1.5
Other goods and services	294.7	295.0	295.7	2.0	.3	.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	183.2	183.3	183.6	2.3	.2	.2
Commodities	150.1	150.2	150.8	1.5	.5	.4
Commodities less food and beverages	133.5	133.6	134.5	.4	.7	.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	154.4	155.1	156.9	2.8	1.6	1.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	185.1	184.7	184.0	4.4	-.6	-.4
Durables	110.8	110.3	110.4	-2.4	-.4	.1
Services	217.6	217.8	217.8	2.9	.1	.0
Rent of shelter ³	216.2	215.9	215.9	2.5	-.1	.0
Transportation services	226.4	226.0	225.1	1.7	-.6	-.4
Other services	255.7	256.7	259.1	3.0	1.3	.9

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—		
	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Sep. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	177.0	177.0	177.3	2.1	0.2	0.2
All items less food	183.5	183.6	184.1	2.2	.3	.3
All items less shelter	175.2	175.4	175.9	2.3	.4	.3
Commodities less food	135.4	135.5	136.5	.6	.8	.7
Nondurables	167.9	168.4	169.3	3.0	.8	.5
Nondurables less food	156.4	157.0	158.9	2.9	1.6	1.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	184.7	184.4	183.9	4.3	-.4	-.3
Services less rent of shelter ³	231.2	231.8	232.0	3.5	.3	.1
Services less medical care services	209.1	209.1	209.1	2.7	.0	.0
Energy	156.1	155.9	153.5	6.9	-1.7	-1.5
All items less energy	188.2	188.4	189.1	1.9	.5	.4
All items less food and energy	190.2	190.4	191.2	1.6	.5	.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	135.1	135.2	136.8	-.9	1.3	1.2
Energy commodities	165.8	165.1	162.9	10.3	-1.7	-1.3
Services less energy services	225.8	226.0	226.3	2.8	.2	.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	Pricing schedule 1	All items									
		Indexes				Percent change to Sep. 2004 from—			Percent change to Aug. 2004 from—		
		June 2004	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Sep. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Aug. 2003	June 2004	July 2004
U.S. city average	M	189.7	189.4	189.5	189.9	2.5	0.3	0.2	2.7	-0.1	0.1
Region and area size²											
Northeast urban	M	201.1	201.0	201.0	201.2	3.2	.1	.1	3.4	.0	.0
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	203.3	203.0	203.1	203.2	3.0	.1	.0	3.3	-1	.0
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	118.7	119.2	118.9	119.2	3.7	.0	.3	3.9	.2	-3
Midwest urban	M	183.3	183.2	183.3	183.6	2.3	.2	.2	2.5	.0	.1
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	185.3	185.4	185.6	185.9	2.1	.3	.2	2.4	.2	.1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	116.8	116.3	116.5	116.8	2.5	.4	.3	2.6	-3	.2
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	176.9	177.1	176.3	176.4	2.4	-4	.1	2.4	-3	-5
South urban	M	182.9	182.6	182.6	182.8	2.5	.1	.1	2.6	-2	.0
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	184.3	183.7	183.7	184.0	2.2	.2	.2	2.2	-3	.0
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	117.0	116.9	116.9	116.9	2.7	.0	.0	3.1	-1	.0
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	180.5	180.1	180.0	181.2	2.8	.6	.7	2.3	-3	-1
West urban	M	193.3	192.9	193.0	193.8	2.2	.5	.4	2.0	-2	.1
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	195.9	195.4	195.5	196.4	2.1	.5	.5	2.0	-2	.1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	117.9	117.9	118.1	118.4	2.4	.4	.3	2.3	.2	.2
Size classes											
A ⁴	M	173.4	173.1	173.2	173.6	2.4	.3	.2	2.5	-1	.1
B/C ³	M	117.3	117.3	117.3	117.4	2.7	.1	.1	3.0	.0	.0
D	M	181.8	181.3	181.0	181.8	2.5	.3	.4	2.2	-4	-2
Selected local areas⁵											
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	M	189.1	189.2	190.2	190.0	2.1	.4	-.1	3.1	.6	.5
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA ...	M	193.7	193.4	193.1	194.5	3.3	.6	.7	3.3	-3	-2
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	M	206.0	205.5	205.7	205.9	3.2	.2	.1	3.3	-1	.1
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT	1	-	208.9	-	209.8	1.5	.4	-	-	-	-
Cleveland-Akron, OH	1	-	181.7	-	183.8	3.0	1.2	-	-	-	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	-	179.1	-	179.7	1.5	.3	-	-	-	-
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV ⁶	1	-	120.2	-	120.8	3.1	.5	-	-	-	-
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.