

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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Midwest Region Consumer Price Index (CPI) – October 2004

The Consumer Price Index for the Midwest increased 0.5 percent in October, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman, increasing prices for transportation had the largest impact on the index. Over the year, the Midwest CPI increased 3.0 percent. Because regional CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the regional indexes.

Transportation prices increased 2.6 percent in October following four months of decline. Prices for motor fuel advanced 9.1 percent in October after decreasing a total of 7.8 percent from May to September. Motor fuel prices have increased 28.5 percent over the year. Prices for new and used motor vehicles were up 0.5 percent in October. Prices for new vehicles increased 1.2 percent while prices for used cars and trucks rose 0.3 percent. Over the year, transportation prices were up 5.7 percent.

Apparel prices rose 2.6 percent in October after registering a 5.5 percent increase in September. Apparel prices typically increase in September and October with the introduction of fall and winter merchandise. Over the year, apparel prices were down 0.4 percent.

Prices for housing declined 0.3 percent in October following a decrease of 0.2 percent in September. The index for shelter increased 0.1 percent. Within shelter, rent of primary residence rose 0.2 percent while owners' equivalent rent of primary residence was up 0.3 percent. Prices for fuels and utilities were down 4.6 percent after decreasing 1.2 percent in September. Prices for electricity fell 10.7 percent and prices for utility (piped) gas service inched up 0.1 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations were up 1.4 percent for the month.

For the year, housing prices were up 2.3 percent. Shelter costs increased 2.3 percent and fuels and utilities prices rose 5.0 percent. Electricity prices were up 1.1 percent over the year while prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 9.0 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations declined 0.5 percent over the same period.

Food and beverages prices increased 0.5 percent in October. Prices for food at home rose 0.7 percent while prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices decreased 0.3 percent. Over the year, prices for food and beverages were up 3.2 percent. Prices for both food at home and food away from home also rose 3.2 percent over the year while prices for alcoholic beverages rose 3.0 percent.

Medical care costs decreased 0.1 percent over the month. Medical care commodities prices increased 0.3 percent and medical care services prices edged down 0.2 percent. Within medical care services, costs for professional services were up 0.1 percent. Over the year, medical care costs rose 5.1 percent, with prices for medical care commodities up 2.9 percent and prices for medical care services up 6.0 percent.

Recreation prices, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, were unchanged in October. Recreation prices increased 1.2 percent over the year.

Education and communication prices decreased 0.4 percent in October after rising 1.5 percent in September. Prices for education and communication were up 1.6 percent over the year.

Prices for other goods and services, which include prices for tobacco and other smoking products, rose 0.2 percent in October and were up 2.1 percent for the year.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 184.5 in October. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$184.50 in October 2004.

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

Midwest(1) (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2003	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004
Expenditure category						
All items.....	183.3	183.6	184.5	3.0	0.7	0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	298.2	298.8	300.2	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	181.7	181.4	182.3	3.2	.3	.5
Food.....	181.0	180.5	181.5	3.2	.3	.6
Food at home.....	178.7	177.4	178.6	3.2	-.1	.7
Food away from home.....	185.0	185.7	186.4	3.2	.8	.4
Alcoholic beverages.....	190.3	192.3	191.7	3.0	.7	-.3
Housing.....	181.2	180.8	180.2	2.3	-.6	-.3
Shelter.....	210.2	210.1	210.4	2.3	.1	.1
Rent of primary residence (2).....	199.2	199.7	200.0	1.4	.4	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (2) (3)	213.4	213.6	214.2	1.5	.4	.3
Fuels and utilities.....	168.3	166.2	158.5	5.0	-5.8	-4.6
Fuels.....	149.2	146.9	138.7	5.3	-7.0	-5.6
Gas (piped) and electricity (2).....	155.9	153.3	144.0	4.6	-7.6	-6.1
Electricity (2).....	140.8	140.6	125.6	1.1	-10.8	-10.7
Utility (piped) gas service (2).....	184.7	178.0	178.1	9.0	-3.6	.1
Household furnishings and operations.....	117.8	117.9	119.5	-.5	1.4	1.4
Apparel.....	111.0	117.1	120.2	-.4	8.3	2.6
Transportation.....	162.9	162.2	166.4	5.7	2.1	2.6
Private transportation.....	158.9	158.4	162.7	6.1	2.4	2.7
New and used motor vehicles (4).....	93.1	93.2	93.7	-1.0	.6	.5
New vehicles.....	131.3	130.1	131.7	-1.6	.3	1.2
New cars and trucks (4) (5).....	92.5	91.7	92.8	-1.6	.3	1.2
New cars (5).....	125.9	124.6	126.2	-1.6	.2	1.3
Used cars and trucks.....	134.1	136.9	137.3	1.4	2.4	.3
Motor fuel.....	165.5	163.0	177.8	28.5	7.4	9.1
Gasoline (all types).....	164.7	162.3	177.0	28.4	7.5	9.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular (5).....	163.6	161.2	176.0	29.2	7.6	9.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (5) (6).....	179.7	176.6	192.5	27.1	7.1	9.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium (5).....	165.1	162.7	176.8	26.1	7.1	8.7
Medical care.....	309.1	310.0	309.8	5.1	.2	-.1
Medical care commodities.....	267.4	268.4	269.1	2.9	.6	.3
Medical care services.....	321.6	322.5	322.0	6.0	.1	-.2
Professional services.....	286.3	287.0	287.2	5.6	0.3	0.1
Recreation (4).....	109.1	109.2	109.2	1.2	.1	.0
Education and communication (4).....	113.1	114.8	114.3	1.6	1.1	-.4
Other goods and services.....	295.0	295.7	296.4	2.1	.5	.2
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	183.3	183.6	184.5	3.0	.7	.5
Commodities.....	150.2	150.8	153.3	3.5	2.1	1.7
Commodities less food and beverages.....	133.6	134.5	137.7	3.6	3.1	2.4
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	155.1	156.9	162.3	7.5	4.6	3.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	184.7	184.0	190.8	10.8	3.3	3.7
Durables.....	110.3	110.4	111.5	-1.0	1.1	1.0
Services.....	217.8	217.8	217.1	2.7	-.3	-.3
Rent of shelter (3)	215.9	215.9	216.2	2.4	.1	.1
Transportation services.....	226.0	225.1	226.2	.3	.1	.5
Other services.....	256.7	259.1	259.0	2.9	.9	.0

Special aggregate indexes

All items less medical care.....	177.0	177.3	178.3	2.9	.7	.6
All items less food.....	183.6	184.1	184.9	3.0	.7	.4
All items less shelter.....	175.4	175.9	177.0	3.3	.9	.6
Commodities less food.....	135.5	136.5	139.5	3.6	3.0	2.2
Nondurables.....	168.4	169.3	172.6	5.4	2.5	1.9
Nondurables less food.....	157.0	158.9	163.9	7.1	4.4	3.1
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	184.4	183.9	190.1	10.1	3.1	3.4
Services less rent of shelter (3)	231.8	232.0	230.0	3.0	-.8	-.9
Services less medical care services.....	209.1	209.1	208.4	2.4	-.3	-.3
Energy.....	155.9	153.5	155.8	16.0	-.1	1.5
All items less energy.....	188.4	189.1	189.8	1.9	.7	.4
All items less food and energy.....	190.4	191.2	191.9	1.6	.8	.4
Commodities less food and energy						
commodities.....	135.2	136.8	138.1	-.3	2.1	1.0
Energy commodities.....	165.1	162.9	177.7	28.5	7.6	9.1
Services less energy services.....	226.0	226.3	226.6	2.5	0.3	0.1

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.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map below.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

