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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE—AUGUST 2004

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Miami-Fort Lauderdale decreased 0.3 percent over the past two months ending in August to a level of 185.1 (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin announced that for the 12-month period ending in August, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 2.3 percent.

Over the two months, lower costs for food, apparel and transportation were partially offset by higher costs for housing. Energy costs declined 5.0 percent, while food prices dropped 0.7 percent over the two months ending in August. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 0.3 percent in August.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Miami-Fort Lauderdale by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percentage change	
	Over 12 months since August 2003	Over 2 months since June 2004
All items	2.3	-0.3
Food and beverages	2.3	-0.6
Housing	3.8	1.0
Apparel	-13.7	-5.7
Transportation	2.3	-2.5
Medical care	4.3	-0.1
Recreation 1/	2.5	0.1
Education and communication 1/	1.6	-0.3
Other goods and services	2.0	0.7

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Over the 12 months ending in August, prices in Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 2.3 percent compared to the 3.3 percent annual increase recorded in August 2003. Energy costs advanced 7.6 percent following an increase of 19.7 percent recorded in the twelve months ending in June 2004. Food costs rose 2.1 percent. Excluding food and energy, the index has risen 1.8 percent since August 2003.

Among the major groups, the food and beverages index decreased 0.6 percent over the past two months primarily due to a decline in costs for food at home (-1.3 percent). Costs for food away from

home increased 0.2 percent over the two months ending in August. The index for alcoholic beverages increased 0.5 percent over the July-August pricing period. Over the past year, the food and beverages index has risen by 2.3 percent as costs for food at home rose 3.3 percent, and costs for food away from home increased 0.8 percent. Costs for alcoholic beverages increased 3.9 percent over the last 12 months.

The index for housing advanced 1.0 percent over the two months ending in August due primarily to an increase in the cost of shelter. After declining 0.5 percent in the May-June pricing period, shelter costs have risen 1.0 percent in the two months ending in August. The shelter index reflects changes in the costs for rent of primary residence, lodging away from home, and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence. The fuels and utilities index was unchanged over the two months ending in August. Since June, costs for utility (piped) gas service have decreased 2.7 percent, while electricity costs were unchanged. Over the past 12 months, the housing index has risen 3.8 percent as shelter costs increased 4.2 percent. Costs for fuels and utilities advanced 2.0 percent over the year. Over the 12 months ending in August 2004, costs for household furnishings and operations advanced 2.2 percent.

Since June, apparel costs have decreased 5.7 percent. Over the past year, the apparel index has decreased 13.7 percent. This is the largest twelve month decrease recorded in the history of the index.

Transportation costs declined 2.5 percent over the past two months after rising 1.7 percent in the May-June pricing period. Falling gasoline prices accounted for the decrease in the transportation index. The index for gasoline decreased 9.2 percent over the two month period ending in August 2004. Over the past year, the transportation index has risen 2.3 percent as gasoline prices advanced 15.8 percent compared with an increase of 7.3 percent recorded during the 12 months ending in August 2003.

The index for medical care dropped 0.1 percent after increasing 0.6 percent in the two months ending in June. Over the past 12 months, medical care costs have increased 4.3 percent.

Other indexes include the recreation index, which increased 0.1 percentage point over the past two months, while costs for education and communication declined 0.3 percent. Over the past 12 months, recreation costs have risen 2.5 percent, and costs for education and communication increased 1.6 percent. Costs for other goods and services registered a 0.7 percent increase in the July-August time period. Over the year, the index for other goods and services increased 2.0 percent.

Consumer Price Index for the South and Atlanta

Consumer price indexes are published for the Atlanta area and the South (which includes the Atlanta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale areas). For the two months ending in August, consumer prices decreased 0.9 percent in the Atlanta area. The South's CPI-U dropped 0.2 percent over the two months. For the 12 months ending in August 2004, the Atlanta area reported a 1.3 percent increase for all items, while the South's CPI-U rose 2.6 percent.

Technical Notes

The Consumer Price Index for Miami-Fort Lauderdale is published bi-monthly. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has updated the consumption expenditure weights in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to the 2001-02 period. The updated expenditure weights for this index replace the 1999-2000 weights that were introduced with the January 2002 CPI release. As originally announced by BLS in December 1998, CPI expenditure weights will continue to be updated at two-year intervals subsequent to the 2004 updating.

During the past year, the CPI program completed its conversion to Computer Assisted Data Collection (CADC). Due to the efficiencies gained from conversion to CADC, BLS has extended data collection to cover the entire month, beginning with data for January 2004. CPI data collection is scheduled in terms of business days – weekdays excluding holidays. Formerly, data collection covered three pricing periods, each comprising six business days in most months and five days in November and December. Consequently, the last day of scheduled data collection was usually the 18th business day of the month. This allowed time during the end of the month for the mailing of paper schedules back to the Washington Office and the data entry of the information on these schedules. Starting in January 2004, the three pricing periods now have variable lengths, between six and eight business days long. The third pricing period normally will end on the last business day of the month.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at <http://www.bls.gov>. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at <http://www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm>. CPI data are also available through our fax-on-demand system. For a catalog of items available to be faxed to you, call our fax-on-demand number at (404) 331-3403. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 331-3415, and customers in the Miami area can reach us at (305) 358-2305. Information from the Consumer Price Index program is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer price index for all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida, (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted.

Group	All urban consumers			Urban wage earners and clerical workers		
	Index August 2004	Percent change to Aug 2004 from		Index August 2004	Percent change to Aug 2004 from	
		Aug 2003	Jun 2004		Aug 2003	Jun 2004
All items	185.1	2.3	-0.3	182.9	2.6	-0.3
All items (Nov. 1977=100)	298.3	-	-	297.1	-	-
Food and beverages	194.3	2.3	-0.6	193.8	2.6	-0.5
Food	194.9	2.1	-0.7	194.9	2.5	-0.5
Food at home	196.2	3.3	-1.3	195.1	3.8	-1.0
Food away from home	195.2	0.8	0.2	196.7	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	189.3	3.9	0.5	176.8	4.2	0.1
Housing	179.6	3.8	1.0	178.4	4.0	1.0
Shelter	193.5	4.2	1.0	193.6	4.4	0.9
Rent of primary residence	185.8	6.2	1.0	185.8	6.2	1.0
Owners' equivalent rent (1)	194.5	3.2	0.6	186.9	3.2	0.6
Fuel and utilities	135.6	2.0	0.0	135.4	1.7	-0.1
Fuels	125.6	0.1	0.0	125.6	0.0	0.0
Gas (piped) and electricity	123.8	-0.2	-0.2	123.8	-0.2	-0.2
Electricity	120.6	0.0	0.0	120.6	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	216.0	1.1	-2.7	216.0	1.1	-2.7
Household furnishings and operation	164.8	2.2	1.9	160.1	3.2	2.6
Apparel	129.3	-13.7	-5.7	140.5	-12.4	-5.2
Transportation	166.9	2.3	-2.5	164.6	2.3	-2.5
Private transportation	167.9	2.7	-2.3	165.4	2.6	-2.4
Motor fuel	168.4	15.7	-9.2	168.4	15.7	-9.2
Gasoline (all types)	166.8	15.8	-9.2	166.8	15.7	-9.2
Regular unleaded (2)	166.3	16.1	-9.5	166.3	16.1	-9.5
Midgrade unleaded (2) (3)	155.3	15.8	-8.8	155.3	15.8	-8.8
Premium unleaded (2)	165.1	14.4	-8.7	165.1	14.5	-8.7
Medical care	295.5	4.3	-0.1	298.6	4.8	0.0
Recreation (4)	109.8	2.5	0.1	107.7	3.0	0.1
Education and communication (4)	109.7	1.6	-0.3	109.8	1.1	-0.9
Other goods and services	249.0	2.0	0.7	239.5	1.4	0.7
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
Commodities	165.2	0.8	-1.5	165.8	1.3	-1.4
Commodities less food and beverages	146.6	-0.1	-2.1	148.7	0.5	-2.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	152.4	0.1	-4.0	157.8	1.9	-4.1
Durables	142.3	-0.8	0.4	138.3	-1.3	0.5
Services	201.9	3.3	0.4	199.9	3.5	0.5
All items less medical care	179.6	2.2	-0.3	177.8	2.4	-0.3
All items less shelter	181.2	1.3	-1.0	178.6	1.7	-1.0
Commodities less food	148.5	0.0	-2.0	149.7	0.6	-2.0
Nondurables	175.0	1.3	-2.1	177.1	2.3	-2.1
Nondurables less food	155.2	0.5	-3.7	158.7	2.1	-3.9
Energy	142.1	7.6	-5.0	141.0	7.9	-5.2
All items less energy	189.9	1.9	0.1	188.3	2.1	0.2
All items less food and energy	188.8	1.8	0.3	187.0	2.0	0.3
Purchasing power of the consumer						
dollar: 1982-84=\$1.00	\$.540	-	-	\$.547	-	-
November 1977=\$1.00	\$.335	-	-	\$.337	-	-

1/ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample

- Data not available.

3/ Index is on a December 1993=100 base.

4/ Index is on a December 1997=100 base.