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On Sept. 9, the Banco de Mexico (central bank) reported that the consumer price index rose 0.6% in August, bringing the accumulated rate for the year to 7.7%. The January-August rate was the lowest of the past 20 years. During the month of August, average retail prices for health and personal care services, education, and entertainment rose 0.7%. Overall price hikes by product category follow: clothing and footwear, 0.6%; furniture and housewares, 0.5%; housing and diverse services, 0.3%; transportation, 0.2%; and, foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco, 0.1%. The price index for the basic subsistence basket rose by 0.8% in August, for an accumulated rate of 5.4% since Jan. 1. The consumer price index is based on data collected in 35 cities. The highest rates were recorded in San Luis Potosi (1%), followed by Tapachula, Fresnillo, Guadalajara and Leon, at 0.8%, and Tijuana, 0.7%. At the low end of the scale were Torreon, 0.3%; Puebla and Tulancingo, 0.4%; and Monterrey, Chetumal and Zamora, 0.5%. Excluding exported crude, prices paid to producers rose 0.5%, bringing the wholesale price index to 7.2% for the year. (Sources: Notimex, Spanish news service EFE, 09/09/92)

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