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## Wholesale Prices Ease Unexpectedly

Wholesale prices ticked lower in August after a rapid rise in July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Wednesday.

Prices charged by producers slipped 0.1% last month, after rising by a downwardly revised 0.7% the month before, per the latest data from the producer-price index. Analysts polled by The Wall Street Journal were expecting a 0.3% August increase.

All told, wholesale prices are up by 2.6% over the past 12 months.

Economists will study the figures along with headline consumer-inflation numbers due Thursday morning to track how the tariff burden is being split among foreign exporters, U.S. companies and their customers, as well as underlying inflation trends.

The two datasets also are combined in the calculation of personal-consumption expenditures inflation, the gauge the Federal Reserve tries to steer toward 2%.

*—Matt Grossman*