

Home Services

Pest Control · Septic & Sewer · Landscape · Pool · Appliance Repair · Moving

Six trades, one publication. Every item is something that moves a number on your P&L, changes what you must do by law, or changes what parts and labor cost you.

IN THIS ISSUE	PEST CONTROL EPA's paperwork clearance for certifying restricted-use pesticide applicators lapsed August 31, and the agency is taking comment on the renewal until September 28.	SEPTIC & SEWER EPA's comment window on draft guidance for reducing PFOA and PFOS risk in biosolids closed September 4, with no final risk assessment and no change to land-application rules.	LANDSCAPE CPSC told consumers on September 10 to cut the cords on two brands of electric pressure washers sold on Amazon and eBay because they lack the required GFCI plug.	 Read it online This issue, and every one before it
	POOL CPSC warned on September 10 that iGarden swim jet combination drain covers violate the Virginia Graeme Baker Act and told owners to stop using pools fitted with them.	APPLIANCE REPAIR AGA Rangemaster recalled 3,992 dual fuel ranges on September 10 over a missing gas test port cap, with free inspection and repair by a certified technician.	MOVING FMCSA and DHS launched a joint trucking fraud crackdown August 31, having already pulled 110 CDL schools tied to more than 5,000 drivers who failed English proficiency tests.	
	BACKGROUND SIGNAL The fraud that reads your invoices before it sends one			

MONEY

Wholesale diesel jumped 24.1% in August alone and is up 77.8% over the year, BLS reported September 10, with truck freight producer prices up 14.3%.

The Producer Price Index for August 2026, released September 10, puts No. 2 diesel fuel up 24.1% in a single month and 77.8% over the 12 months ended in August. Final demand energy rose 24.4% over the year. Final demand goods rose 7.7%, and the headline final demand index rose 5.4%.

The cost is already inside hauling rates. Producer prices for final demand transportation and warehousing services rose 13.0% over the year and 2.3% in August alone. Truck transportation of freight rose 14.3% over the year and 2.0% in the month. That is the line under every pump truck, moving van, spray rig and parts delivery you pay for.

Retail data agrees. The August CPI, released September 11, shows motor fuel up 27.9% over the year and gasoline up 27.4%. In the South region, which includes Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, gasoline was up 28.5%. All items rose 3.4%.

This is not broad inflation. Final demand services rose 4.5% over the year, CPI services less energy rose 3.0%, and shelter rose 3.0%. The increase is concentrated in what you burn and what you pay someone else to move. Route density and surcharges, not list prices, are where this gets recovered.

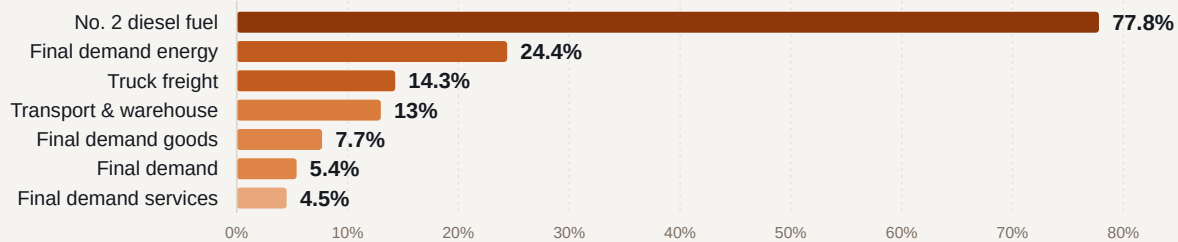
What to do about it: Pull the last eight weeks of fuel receipts and divide by revenue to get your true fuel-to-revenue ratio; if it has moved more than a point since June, your pricing is stale. Re-cut routes this week so trucks are dispatched by geography, not by order of booking. Put a fuel surcharge in writing on every contract renewal and commercial proposal, tied to a published index and reset monthly, rather than raising base prices you cannot easily walk back. Call your two largest parts and equipment suppliers and ask whether their freight-in charge is fixed or indexed, and get the answer by email. If you buy on a fuel card, check the terms: a cents-per-gallon discount loses value every time the price rises.

BLS, Producer Price Index News Release, August 2026 (released Sept. 10, 2026) · BLS, PPI Table 2: final demand services and goods detail, August 2026 · BLS, Consumer Price Index Summary, August 2026 (released Sept. 11, 2026)

INFOGRAPHIC 1 / WHAT YOU PAY WHOLESALE

Producer prices for the things home-services firms buy rose far faster than producer prices overall in the year to August 2026.

Percent change, 12 months ended August 2026, unadjusted. BLS Producer Price Index, released September 10, 2026.

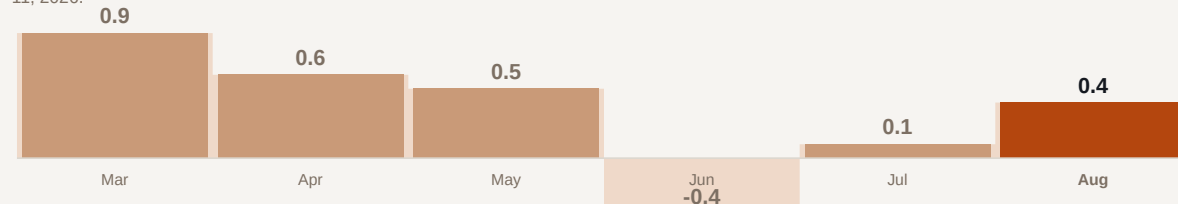


Diesel at 77.8% is running more than fourteen times the 5.4% rise in producer prices overall. The two freight lines, up 13.0% and 14.3%, are that same fuel cost arriving as somebody else's invoice. Price fuel as its own line on quotes and surcharges; folded into labor, it disappears and never gets recovered. [BLS, Producer Price Index News Release, August 2026](#)

INFOGRAPHIC 2 / CPI MONTH BY MONTH

Consumer prices have risen three months running after a single soft reading in June.

All items, seasonally adjusted one-month percent change, March through August 2026. BLS Consumer Price Index, released September 11, 2026.



The all-items index fell 0.4% in June and has climbed every month since, reaching 0.4% in August. One soft month is not a trend; three rising months is. Plan the fourth quarter assuming input costs keep climbing rather than reverting, and do not hold a price list you set in June. [BLS, Consumer Price Index Summary, August 2026](#)

PEST CONTROL

TWO ITEMS

REGULATION

EPA's paperwork clearance for certifying restricted-use pesticide applicators lapsed August 31, and the agency is taking comment on the renewal until September 28.

Why it matters: EPA published a 30-day notice on August 27, 2026 asking OMB to renew the Certification of Pesticide Applicators collection (ICR 0155.17, OMB 2070-0029). EPA puts it at roughly 2.7 million respondents, 3,350,305 burden hours and \$165.6 million a year, and states the current approval expired August 31, 2026. Certifications stay valid; what is in play is how much recordkeeping the certification programs may demand of you. Every firm that buys or applies restricted-use termiticides or rodenticides sits inside that number. Comments close September 28. If your state adds exam, reporting or renewal steps beyond the federal minimum, that is the hour cost to put on the record now.

Federal Register, EPA ICR renewal: Certification of Pesticide Applicators (Aug. 27, 2026)

MONEY

EPA wants comment by September 28 on renewing the establishment registration and annual production reports required of anyone who produces or repackages pesticides or devices.

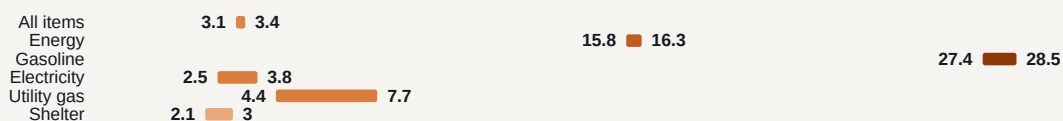
Why it matters: The July 30, 2026 notice covers EPA Forms 3540-8 and 3540-16 (ICR 0160.14, OMB 2070-0078) and puts the burden at 20,762 respondents, 33,307.19 hours and \$2,961,348.61 a year. This catches pest control firms that do more than apply finished product: repackaging bait, or assembling or importing traps, foggers and other devices, requires an establishment number and an annual production report. Applying registered product under a service contract does not trigger it. Check whether any item you private-label or import puts you in scope, and comment by September 28 if the annual filing costs you more than EPA's estimate.

Federal Register, EPA ICR: registration and pesticide report for pesticide- and device-producing establishments (July 30, 2026)

INFOGRAPHIC 3 / SOUTH VS NATION

Where the South, which includes Virginia, Maryland and the District, runs above and below the national inflation rate.

Percent change over 12 months ended August 2026; each bar spans the South region and U.S. city average readings. BLS, released September 11, 2026.



For mid-Atlantic owners the South reading is the relevant one. Gasoline and piped gas are both worse in the South than nationally; electricity and shelter are better. If you drive a lot and sell gas heat, you are on the wrong side of that split. If you sell electric-efficiency work, you are on the right side. [BLS, Consumer Price Index, South Region, August 2026](#)

SEPTIC & SEWER

TWO ITEMS

REGULATION

EPA's comment window on draft guidance for reducing PFOA and PFOS risk in biosolids closed September 4, with no final risk assessment and no change to land-application rules.

Why it matters: EPA released the draft memorandum on July 6, 2026 at 91 Fed. Reg. 41020 and took comment through September 4, 2026 in docket EPA-HQ-OW-2026-2509. It is voluntary guidance to treatment plant operators, landowners and farmers on practices that reduce PFOA and PFOS exposure; it sets no numeric limit and changes no permit today. The separate draft sewage sludge risk assessment released January 14, 2025 is still not final. The exposure for pumpers is the outlet: your septage goes to a plant or a field, and if either tightens acceptance after this guidance lands, your disposal cost moves. Ask your receiving plant in writing what its 2027 septage acceptance policy will be.

EPA, Biosolids: draft guidance for reducing risk from PFOA and PFOS · EPA, proposed or new rules affecting agriculture (comment deadline Sept. 4, 2026) · Bergeson & Campbell, EPA seeks comment on draft biosolids PFOA/PFOS guidance

LANDSCAPE

TWO ITEMS

SUPPLY

CPSC told consumers on September 10 to cut the cords on two brands of electric pressure washers sold on Amazon and eBay because they lack the required GFCI plug.

Why it matters: CPSC issued warnings 26-758 (HOTFINE, \$75 to \$160, sold on Amazon and eBay) and 26-759 (Le Hao Tool, 3,100 units, \$60 to \$130, sold on Amazon from November 2023 through January 2026) on September 10, 2026. Both lack an integrated immersion protection device, a ground-fault circuit interrupter, on or near the plug; HOTFINE also lacks an adequate-length cord. No injuries are reported. Neither firm issued a recall or refund, so CPSC's instruction is to unplug, cut the cord and dispose. If crews bought cheap electric washers online for hardscape or house washing, inventory them this week and replace them.

CPSC warning 26-758, HOTFINE pressure washers (Sept. 10, 2026) · CPSC warning 26-759, Le Hao Tool pressure washers (Sept. 10, 2026)

POOL

TWO ITEMS

REGULATION

CPSC warned on September 10 that iGarden swim jet combination drain covers violate the Virginia Graeme Baker Act and told owners to stop using pools fitted with them.

Why it matters: Warning 26-765, issued September 10, 2026, says the covers do not conform to the entrapment protection standards of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act and lack required markings, service life statements and installation instructions. They sold for \$2,000 to \$2,400 at store.igarden.ai. CPSC's instruction is not a repair: stop using the pool, unplug the unit, cut the power cord and dispose of it. No recall or refund was announced. An unmarked cover cannot be verified for service life at all. Walk your commercial accounts this week, photograph every cover marking, and put in writing to the owner any pool with an unmarked or expired cover.

CPSC warning 26-765, iGarden swim jets combination drain covers (Sept. 10, 2026)

APPLIANCE REPAIR

TWO ITEMS

DEMAND

AGA Rangemaster recalled 3,992 dual fuel ranges on September 10 over a missing gas test port cap, with free inspection and repair by a certified technician.

Why it matters: Recall 26-756, announced September 10, 2026, covers models AEL361DF, AEL481DF, AMC36DF, AMC48DF, LAC9 and LAC1 sold March 2025 through July 2026 for \$6,000 to \$20,000, about 3,992 units in the United States and 336 more in Canada. A missing cap on the gas test port can leak gas. No incidents are reported. Owners must shut off the gas supply and may use the electric oven only until the repair is done. That is scheduled, paid, in-home gas work on high-ticket appliances already in your territory. Call AGA Rangemaster at 888-257-7912 about servicer authorization before a customer calls you, and pull serial numbers you have already worked on.

CPSC recall 26-756, AGA Rangemaster dual fuel ranges (Sept. 10, 2026)

SUPPLY

Plumbing supplier Jones Stephens raised prices 5% to 15% by product group effective September 3, and two duct-fitting makers go up as much as 6% on September 21.

Why it matters: The supplier price list published September 2, 2026 shows Jones Stephens at 5% to 15% depending on product group effective September 3, OmegaFlex TracPipe products at 6% effective September 1, Bard raising service parts on September 1 without disclosing an amount, and M&M Manufacturing and Snappy each up to 6% effective September 21. Risers, lids, cleanouts and fittings sit in those lines. Any job you quoted in July at distributor list and have not yet ordered material for is now underwater. Pull your open bids this week, re-price material at today's list, and put a 15-day validity window on every quote you have not converted.

ACHR News, price increase list, September 2026 (Sept. 2, 2026)

MONEY

Copper wire and cable prices rose 4.2% in August and 27.2% over the year, and the 50% tariff on copper content in covered semi-finished products stays in place.

Why it matters: A September 11, 2026 trade report puts wire and cable up 4.2% in August, 27.2% over the year and 104.9% since 2020, even as copper on the London Metal Exchange fell 3.1% from a record high. The 2025 Section 232 duty of 50% on copper content in covered semi-finished products is still in effect, so the futures dip has not reached quotes and is not expected to soon. Irrigation wire, low-voltage lighting cable and pump motors are where this lands for you. Buy wire for booked installs now rather than job by job, and ask suppliers for the validity window on every quote; 30-day price protection is worth more than a small discount.

ACHR News, copper prices just fell sharply, but don't call it relief just yet (Sept. 11, 2026)

MONEY

Piped gas prices in the South rose 7.7% over the year through August, nearly double the 4.4% national increase, just as extended heater season begins.

Why it matters: BLS released the August CPI on September 11, 2026. Utility piped gas service rose 4.4% nationally over 12 months but 7.7% in the South region, which includes Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Electricity rose 3.8% nationally and only 2.5% in the South. Energy services overall rose 4.0%. Gas heaters and long pump run-times are where that lands. If you sell heater season as a flat monthly add-on, last October's math is wrong for the mid-Atlantic. Re-price extended-season heating agreements before renewals go out, and pitch variable-speed pump swaps against the electric rate, which is the cheaper side of this split.

BLS, CPI Table 1: expenditure category detail, August 2026 · BLS, Consumer Price Index, South Region, August 2026 (released Sept. 11, 2026)

MONEY

New appliance prices were essentially flat over the year through August, up 0.1%, while the service parts you buy went up again on September 1 and September 3.

Why it matters: BLS's August CPI, released September 11, 2026, puts the appliances index up 0.1% over 12 months. Over the same stretch Bard raised service parts prices effective September 1 without disclosing the amount, Jones Stephens went up 5% to 15% by product group on September 3, and M&M Manufacturing and Snappy each go up to 6% on September 21. Flat retail is the repair trade's real problem: when a new unit stops getting more expensive, the repair-versus-replace line moves against you. Re-run your diagnostic fee and parts markup against current distributor list this week, and stop quoting repairs that land above roughly half of today's replacement price.

BLS, CPI Table 2: commodity and service detail, August 2026 · ACHR News, price increase list, September 2026 (Sept. 2, 2026)

LABOR

FMCSA and DHS launched a joint trucking fraud crackdown August 31, having already pulled 110 CDL schools tied to more than 5,000 drivers who failed English proficiency tests.

Why it matters: The August 31, 2026 announcement pairs FMCSA with DHS, DOJ, the FBI and US Attorneys, and reports 28,000 drivers removed over English language proficiency since June 2025, 30,000 licenses cancelled as illegally issued to foreign drivers, 8,000 unqualified training schools purged, and a synchronized sweep of more than 200 schools across 23 states. States that do not correct non-compliant CDL programs within 30 days lose 4% of federal highway funds, rising to 8%. For a mover this is a driver supply shock heading into the back half of the season. Re-verify every driver's CDL and medical certificate against the state record and document the ELP check in the file.

FMCSA, interagency effort to crack down on fraud in the trucking industry (Aug. 31, 2026)

REGULATION

FMCSA opened two hours-of-service pilot programs on August 27 that would let drivers split the 10-hour break or pause the 14-hour clock for up to three hours.

Why it matters: The August 27, 2026 announcement describes a flexible sleeper berth pilot, in which the 10 hours may be split into two periods totaling at least 10 hours with one period of at least five consecutive hours in the berth, and a split duty pilot allowing drivers to pause the 14-hour window for up to three hours a day in non-driving status. Each pilot takes 256 drivers, 512 in all, for four months, paying up to \$1,600 per driver for completing the study tasks. No Federal Register notice or application deadline was given. For long-haul household goods this is the loading-day problem: a slow origin eats the clock. Email pilots@dot.gov to get on the list.

FMCSA advances hours of service pilot programs (Aug. 27, 2026)

THE BACKGROUND SIGNAL

The fraud that reads your invoices before it sends one

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center took 24,768 business email compromise reports in 2025, with losses of \$3.05 billion — a record, after dipping to \$2.77 billion in 2024 from \$2.95 billion in 2023. Across all internet crime it logged 1,008,597 complaints and \$20.88 billion in losses. Reported cases only, so read it as a floor.

Business email compromise, not ransomware, is the one that should concern a home services operator. Someone gets into a mailbox, reads until they understand how you invoice and who pays you, then sends a real-looking progress billing with different bank details. No malware, no warning — just a payment that never arrives and an argument about who eats it. A trade that emails estimates, service tickets and supplier invoices all day is the shape this is built for. The quieter number is adoption: under 20% of firms with fewer than 20 staff use AI at all.

What to do about it: You don't need a security program. You need multi-factor authentication on email and your accounting login, and one rule everybody follows: nobody changes bank details on the strength of an email or a call — you ring the number you already had on file and confirm. That covers most of it, and costs nothing. The part it doesn't — how the systems are set up — is the day job of our parent company, CyberSainya.

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, 2025 Internet Crime Report — reported cases only, rounded from \$2,946,830,270, \$2,770,151,146 and \$3,046,598,558. U.S. Census Bureau, Business Trends and Outlook Survey, May 3, 2026.

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You approve from your phone

Customer page: options, photos, plain English

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2 SEE EVERYTHING — YOUR DASHBOARDS

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CERNODESK · OWNER DASHBOARD

example view · this month

ANSWERED312

BOOKED88

CAPTURED124

MISSED0

47 calls caught after hours — a 9-to-5 desk would have missed them

CERNO DEAL DESK · OWNER DASHBOARD

example view · this month

OPEN12

AWAITING4

SENT18

WON71

6 min average from request to quote sent · 71% estimate → won

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