

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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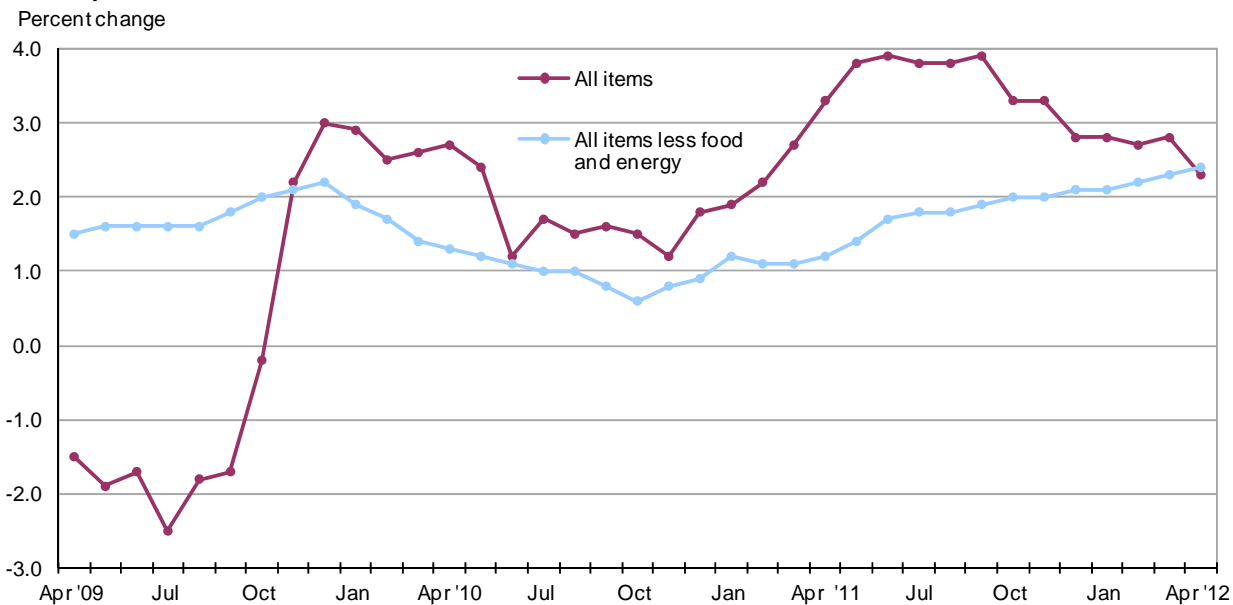
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MIDWEST REGION CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – APRIL 2012
Prices in the Midwest up 0.2 percent in April and 2.3 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.2 percent in April, following a 1.0-percent advance in the prior month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the overall increase was broad based, but was moderated by a 6.0-percent decline in prices for utility natural gas. Overall, energy costs edged down 0.2 percent. Food prices were 0.3 percent higher and the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.2 percent.

The CPI-U for the Midwest rose 2.3 percent from April 2011 to April 2012. The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, was down 0.4 percent while food prices advanced 3.5 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U increased 2.4 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year changes in consumer price indexes, Midwest Region, April 2009–April 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

The food index increased 0.3 percent in April – the same rate as in the prior month. Prices for food away from home were up 0.4 percent over the month and costs for food at home rose 0.2 percent.

From April 2011 to April 2012, food prices increased 3.5 percent. Higher costs for food at home led the gain, advancing 3.9 percent. The index for food away from home also contributed to the advance with a 3.0-percent rise over the year.

Energy

The energy index for the Midwest turned down 0.2 percent in April, following a 6.6-percent jump in March. Prices for utility (piped) gas service decreased 6.0 percent – marking the ninth consecutive monthly decline and largest decrease in two years. Conversely, the index for electricity edged up 0.2 percent in April, and motor fuel prices advanced 0.8 percent over the month.

Energy prices were 0.4 percent lower than their April 2011 level, due primarily to a 15.3-percent drop in utility (piped) gas service costs. In contrast, the motor fuel index increased 1.8 percent and electricity prices were 3.3 percent higher than a year earlier.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.2 percent in April, slightly less than the 0.3-percent gain registered in each of the three previous months. Components registering higher prices over the month included shelter (0.2 percent), apparel (1.3 percent), and used cars and trucks (1.6 percent).

The annual rate of change for the index for all items less food and energy continued to accelerate, rising 2.4 percent from April 2011 to April 2012. This yearly increase was the largest since a 2.4-rise in August 2008. Higher costs for shelter (1.9 percent), medical care (3.7 percent), and apparel (7.0 percent) led the advance in April.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 219.405 in April 2012. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$219.41 in April 2012. 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.

Table A. Midwest Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.1	1.2	0.6	4.3	0.6	-0.3	0.5	2.9	0.5	1.9	0.6	2.8
February	0.7	2.0	0.2	3.8	0.3	-0.2	0.0	2.5	0.3	2.2	0.2	2.7
March	1.0	2.3	0.9	3.7	0.3	-0.8	0.4	2.6	0.9	2.7	1.0	2.8
April	0.5	2.3	0.8	4.0	0.2	-1.5	0.2	2.7	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3
May	0.9	2.9	0.9	4.0	0.4	-1.9	0.1	2.4	0.6	3.8		
June	0.0	2.7	0.9	4.9	1.1	-1.7	0.0	1.2	0.0	3.9		
July	-0.1	2.3	0.5	5.6	-0.3	-2.5	0.2	1.7	0.1	3.8		
August	-0.2	1.8	-0.3	5.4	0.4	-1.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	3.8		
September	0.6	3.1	0.0	4.8	0.0	-1.7	0.1	1.6	0.2	3.9		
October	-0.1	3.7	-1.5	3.3	0.1	-0.2	0.0	1.5	-0.6	3.3		
November	0.7	4.1	-2.1	0.5	0.3	2.2	0.1	1.2	0.0	3.3		
December	-0.3	3.8	-1.1	-0.3	-0.3	3.0	0.2	1.8	-0.2	2.8		

CPI-W

In April, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 216.160, up 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 2.4 percent over the year.

The May 2012 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 14, 2012.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between areas; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Midwest region is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Chicago Information Office at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.
Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number (Federal Relay Service):
1-800-877-8339

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

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	216.855	218.975	219.405	2.3	1.2	0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	352.835	356.284	356.984	-	-	-
Food and beverages	226.156	226.730	227.247	3.5	.5	.2
Food	225.473	226.203	226.771	3.5	.6	.3
Food at home	221.276	221.974	222.354	3.9	.5	.2
Food away from home	231.942	232.724	233.631	3.0	.7	.4
Alcoholic beverages	234.007	232.163	231.895	3.1	-9	-1
Housing	200.370	200.795	200.661	1.3	.1	-1
Shelter	231.957	232.640	233.060	1.9	.5	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	228.702	229.112	229.498	2.2	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	236.660	237.063	237.323	1.8	.3	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	236.660	237.064	237.326	1.8	.3	.1
Fuels and utilities	202.303	202.186	199.308	-1.7	-1.5	-1.4
Household energy	172.402	172.129	168.901	-3.3	-2.0	-1.9
Energy services ¹	176.880	176.432	173.088	-3.4	-2.1	-1.9
Electricity ¹	183.017	182.989	183.386	3.3	.2	.2
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	158.085	156.966	147.623	-15.3	-6.6	-6.0
Household furnishings and operations	119.586	119.554	119.462	1.2	-1	-1
Apparel	116.578	119.385	120.969	7.0	3.8	1.3
Transportation	213.087	221.721	223.209	2.5	4.8	.7
Private transportation	207.677	216.530	217.807	2.7	4.9	.6
New and used motor vehicles ³	99.983	100.326	101.009	2.2	1.0	.7
New vehicles	138.361	138.066	138.191	2.4	-1	.1
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	97.961	97.765	97.858	2.4	-1	.1
New cars ⁴	136.983	136.524	136.781	2.6	-1	.2
Used cars and trucks	149.007	150.694	153.179	3.8	2.8	1.6
Motor fuel	306.990	342.163	344.935	1.8	12.4	.8
Gasoline (all types)	305.722	341.501	344.197	1.7	12.6	.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	304.648	340.890	343.519	1.7	12.8	.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	334.997	371.870	374.825	1.4	11.9	.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	296.817	330.478	333.670	1.8	12.4	1.0
Medical care	410.589	411.318	412.635	3.7	.5	.3
Medical care commodities	331.762	333.010	331.980	3.6	.1	-3
Medical care services	436.584	437.067	439.398	3.7	.6	.5
Professional services	366.294	366.336	367.211	1.9	.3	.2
Recreation ³	116.054	116.593	116.489	1.3	.4	-1
Education and communication ³	134.879	134.873	134.933	2.1	.0	.0
Other goods and services	375.873	377.040	376.830	2.0	.3	-1
Commodity and service group						
All items	216.855	218.975	219.405	2.3	1.2	.2
Commodities	181.901	185.458	186.162	2.8	2.3	.4
Commodities less food and beverages	159.082	163.787	164.550	2.5	3.4	.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	208.365	218.120	219.089	3.1	5.1	.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	267.893	281.932	282.590	1.9	5.5	.2
Durables	110.626	110.686	111.244	1.4	.6	.5
Services	253.384	254.078	254.237	1.9	.3	.1
Rent of shelter ²	238.244	238.919	239.353	1.9	.5	.2
Transportation services	273.685	274.587	276.072	1.7	.9	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
Commodity and service group						
Other services	309.687	311.097	310.932	2.8	0.4	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	207.622	209.789	210.180	2.2	1.2	.2
All items less food	215.360	217.704	218.111	2.1	1.3	.2
All items less shelter	213.758	216.450	216.889	2.4	1.5	.2
Commodities less food	161.652	166.217	166.958	2.6	3.3	.4
Nondurables	217.999	223.535	224.300	3.2	2.9	.3
Nondurables less food	209.837	219.023	219.932	3.2	4.8	.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	263.808	276.547	277.130	2.1	5.0	.2
Services less rent of shelter ²	284.719	285.473	285.318	1.9	.2	-.1
Services less medical care services	239.555	240.254	240.281	1.7	.3	.0
Energy	231.722	247.130	246.560	-4	6.4	-.2
All items less energy	217.701	218.415	218.958	2.6	.6	.2
All items less food and energy	216.957	217.671	218.210	2.4	.6	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.015	146.553	147.068	2.6	.7	.4
Energy commodities	305.621	339.601	342.103	1.7	11.9	.7
Services less energy services	263.344	264.168	264.718	2.3	.5	.2

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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

Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	213.248	215.788	216.160	2.4	1.4	0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	344.869	348.978	349.579	-	-	-
Food and beverages	226.580	227.164	227.556	3.5	.4	.2
Food	226.019	226.735	227.171	3.5	.5	.2
Food at home	221.834	222.518	222.716	3.9	.4	.1
Food away from home	232.714	233.489	234.416	3.0	.7	.4
Alcoholic beverages	233.917	232.293	231.928	3.0	-.9	-.2
Housing	195.536	195.889	195.661	1.3	.1	-.1
Shelter	221.958	222.544	222.882	1.9	.4	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	229.219	229.633	229.999	2.1	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	220.543	220.925	221.160	1.7	.3	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	220.549	220.929	221.169	1.7	.3	.1
Fuels and utilities	202.990	202.787	199.929	-1.8	-1.5	-1.4
Household energy	172.856	172.499	169.301	-3.5	-2.1	-1.9
Energy services ¹	176.105	175.639	172.340	-3.5	-2.1	-1.9
Electricity ¹	182.687	182.696	183.066	3.2	.2	.2
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	157.839	156.585	147.197	-15.7	-6.7	-6.0
Household furnishings and operations	118.328	118.272	118.053	1.2	-.2	-.2
Apparel	115.483	118.759	119.587	8.1	3.6	.7
Transportation	214.669	224.726	226.224	3.1	5.4	.7
Private transportation	211.227	221.445	222.828	3.3	5.5	.6
New and used motor vehicles ³	100.346	100.742	101.497	2.5	1.1	.7
New vehicles	141.907	141.603	141.709	2.4	-.1	.1
Used cars and trucks	149.965	151.658	154.170	3.8	2.8	1.7
Motor fuel	307.555	343.045	345.868	1.8	12.5	.8
Gasoline (all types)	306.240	342.361	345.102	1.6	12.7	.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	304.993	341.579	344.245	1.7	12.9	.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	334.501	371.509	374.509	1.4	12.0	.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	296.453	330.325	333.600	1.8	12.5	1.0
Medical care	414.431	415.267	416.716	3.9	.6	.3
Medical care commodities	326.131	327.641	326.522	4.0	.1	-.3
Medical care services	441.673	442.216	444.682	3.9	.7	.6
Professional services	367.628	367.675	368.591	2.0	.3	.2
Recreation ³	112.439	112.886	112.937	1.8	.4	.0
Education and communication ³	129.219	129.247	129.330	1.7	.1	.1
Other goods and services	410.435	411.438	411.284	2.3	.2	.0
Commodity and service group						
All items	213.248	215.788	216.160	2.4	1.4	.2
Commodities	185.735	190.163	190.837	3.3	2.7	.4
Commodities less food and beverages	164.738	170.537	171.302	3.2	4.0	.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	220.277	232.331	233.274	3.9	5.9	.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	284.499	301.789	302.818	2.6	6.4	.3
Durables	112.272	112.401	112.992	1.8	.6	.5
Services	246.837	247.436	247.496	1.9	.3	.0
Rent of shelter ²	220.424	220.982	221.321	1.9	.4	.2
Transportation services	271.215	271.891	272.867	2.1	.6	.4
Other services	289.889	291.156	291.255	2.7	.5	.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	205.422	208.004	208.339	2.4	1.4	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less food	210.682	213.505	213.866	2.2	1.5	0.2
All items less shelter	212.606	215.945	216.334	2.7	1.8	.2
Commodities less food	167.028	172.696	173.440	3.3	3.8	.4
Nondurables	224.531	231.473	232.172	3.8	3.4	.3
Nondurables less food	220.970	232.429	233.316	4.0	5.6	.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	278.684	294.555	295.482	2.9	6.0	.3
Services less rent of shelter ²	252.839	253.423	253.140	1.9	.1	-.1
Services less medical care services	233.724	234.317	234.256	1.7	.2	.0
Energy	235.285	252.063	251.778	-.2	7.0	-.1
All items less energy	212.141	212.861	213.321	2.7	.6	.2
All items less food and energy	209.608	210.328	210.792	2.6	.6	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.591	149.299	149.729	3.0	.8	.3
Energy commodities	307.145	341.877	344.546	1.9	12.2	.8
Services less energy services	256.203	256.939	257.432	2.4	.5	.2

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a December 1984=100 base.

³ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

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