NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Thursday, October 15, 2015 **15-2020-KAN**

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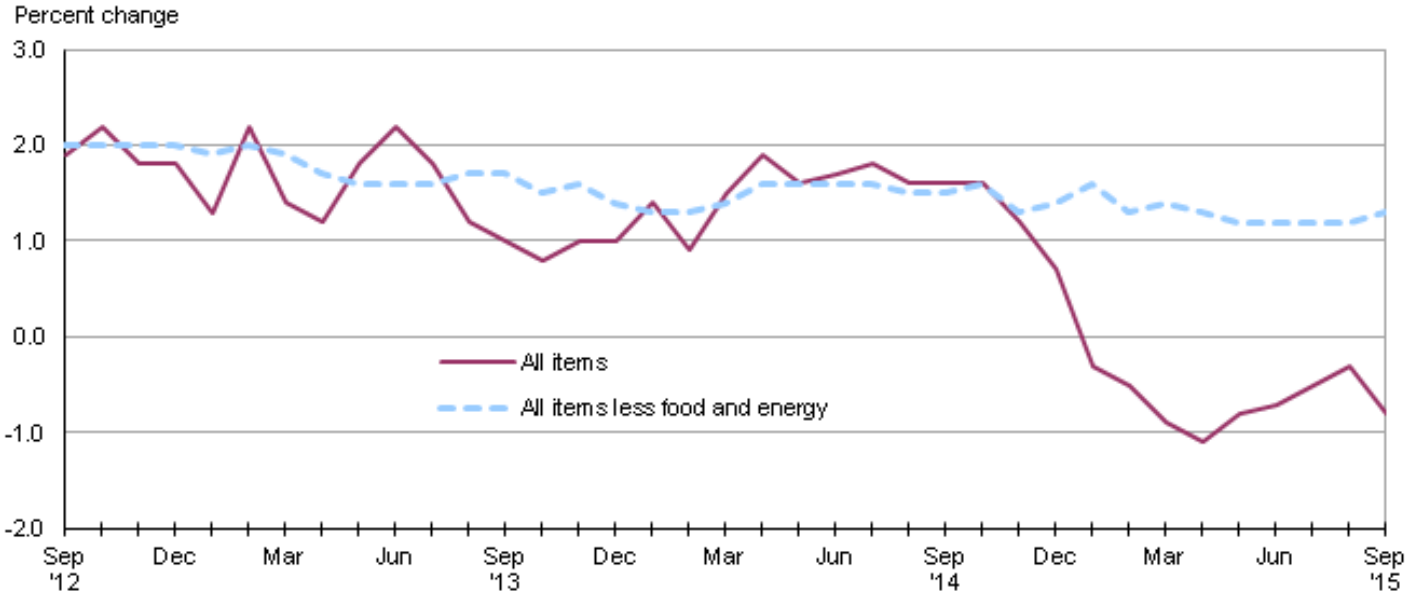
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – September 2015

Prices in the Midwest down 0.3 percent in September and 0.8 percent lower over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest declined 0.3 percent in September after registering no change in each of the previous two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly decrease was largely attributable to a 10.7-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Overall, energy costs were 6.6 percent lower over the month. Food prices rose 0.4 percent and the index for all items less food and energy was up 0.3 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The CPI-U for the Midwest decreased 0.8 percent from September 2014 to September 2015, the ninth consecutive month of over-the-year decline. (See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices increased 1.4 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 19.2 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.3 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, September 2012–September 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest increased 0.4 percent in September. The index for food at home rose 0.5 percent and costs for food away from home were 0.4 percent higher.

From September 2014 to September 2015, the index for food advanced 1.4 percent led by a 3.0-percent rise in costs for food away from home. Prices for food at home also contributed to the increase with a gain of 0.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index registered its third consecutive monthly decline, falling 6.6 percent in September, and had the greatest downward impact on the all items index. The decrease in energy costs was largely attributable to a 10.7-percent drop in motor fuel prices, the largest one-month decline since January 2015. Lower costs for electricity (-2.8 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-1.8 percent) also contributed to the monthly decline.

Energy prices fell 19.2 percent from September 2014 to September 2015, led by a drop of 29.8 percent in motor fuel prices. The index for motor fuel has registered consecutive over-the-year declines since August 2014. Costs for utility (piped) gas service were 18.1 percent lower over the year, while electricity prices were little changed (0.1 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest rose 0.3 percent in September. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included apparel (3.8 percent), shelter (0.3 percent), and education and communication (0.5 percent). In contrast, used cars and trucks (-1.6 percent) was among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.3 percent from September 2014 to September 2015. Higher costs for shelter (2.3 percent) and medical care services (2.2 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 225.184 in September 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $225.18 in September 2015. 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.

CPI-W

In September, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 220.121, down 0.5 percent over the month. The CPI-W decreased 1.3 percent over the year.

Table A. Midwest region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.5	1.9	0.6	2.8	0.1	1.3	0.5	1.4	-0.6	-0.3
February	0.3	2.2	0.2	2.7	1.1	2.2	0.6	0.9	0.3	-0.5
March	0.9	2.7	1.0	2.8	0.2	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.6	-0.9
April	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.1	-1.1
May	0.6	3.8	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8
June	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7
July	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5
August	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3
September	0.2	3.9	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.8
October	-0.6	3.3	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6		
November	0.0	3.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	1.2		
December	-0.2	2.8	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	0.7		

The October 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, November 17, 2015.

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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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.

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Table 1. 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-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	225.853	225.830	225.184	-0.8	-0.3	-0.3
All items (December 1977=100)	367.476	367.438	366.386			
Food and beverages	239.516	240.304	241.353	1.3	0.8	0.4
Food	239.266	240.035	241.100	1.4	0.8	0.4
Food at home	229.936	230.714	231.872	0.4	0.8	0.5
Food away from home	254.811	255.562	256.469	3.0	0.7	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	240.512	241.594	242.382	0.5	0.8	0.3
Housing	213.922	213.907	213.827	1.1	0.0	0.0
Shelter	249.676	249.789	250.435	2.3	0.3	0.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	247.740	248.212	249.093	2.6	0.5	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	252.685	253.239	253.970	2.1	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	252.682	253.235	253.963	2.1	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	221.893	221.787	217.460	-4.3	-2.0	-2.0
Household energy	185.829	185.517	180.872	-6.5	-2.7	-2.5
Energy services [1]	194.343	194.009	189.089	-5.7	-2.7	-2.5
Electricity [1]	215.625	215.456	209.357	0.1	-2.9	-2.8
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	147.374	146.756	144.182	-18.1	-2.2	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations	116.212	115.822	116.226	0.0	0.0	0.3
Apparel	115.350	117.025	121.530	-3.2	5.4	3.8
Transportation	204.646	202.612	195.985	-9.4	-4.2	-3.3
Private transportation	199.095	197.332	190.680	-9.8	-4.2	-3.4
New and used motor vehicles [3]	100.084	99.457	98.911	-0.8	-1.2	-0.5
New vehicles	139.249	138.725	138.849	0.0	-0.3	0.1
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	98.631	98.265	98.363	0.2	-0.3	0.1
New cars [4]	135.512	135.153	135.590	0.3	0.1	0.3
Used cars and trucks	151.545	151.385	148.968	-2.0	-1.7	-1.6
Motor fuel	246.592	240.564	214.907	-29.8	-12.8	-10.7
Gasoline (all types)	245.326	239.397	213.670	-29.8	-12.9	-10.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	241.386	235.185	208.627	-30.8	-13.6	-11.3
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	275.548	268.532	244.167	-27.7	-11.4	-9.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	254.579	251.927	231.993	-23.7	-8.9	-7.9
Medical Care	451.331	451.284	451.793	2.0	0.1	0.1
Medical care commodities	366.016	364.941	363.415	1.4	-0.7	-0.4
Medical care services	479.840	480.199	481.504	2.2	0.3	0.3
Professional services	391.944	392.467	393.729	1.7	0.5	0.3
Recreation [3]	117.685	117.935	118.002	0.6	0.3	0.1
Education and communication [3]	139.346	139.846	140.481	-0.2	0.8	0.5
Other goods and services	401.493	402.830	402.044	1.9	0.1	-0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	225.853	225.830	225.184	-0.8	-0.3	-0.3
Commodities	180.282	180.085	178.825	-4.0	-0.8	-0.7
Commodities less food & beverages	151.238	150.631	148.428	-7.4	-1.9	-1.5
Nondurables less food & beverages	195.228	194.414	189.947	-11.1	-2.7	-2.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	247.507	245.099	234.876	-13.4	-5.1	-4.2
Durables	107.646	107.241	107.081	-1.0	-0.5	-0.1
Services	273.022	273.170	273.126	1.5	0.0	0.0
Rent of shelter [2]	256.423	256.541	257.223	2.3	0.3	0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
Transportation services	294.209	292.358	291.045	2.1	-1.1	-0.4
Other services	327.062	328.436	329.082	1.1	0.6	0.2
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	215.182	215.160	214.459	-1.0	-0.3	-0.3
All items less food	223.573	223.421	222.496	-1.1	-0.5	-0.4
All items less shelter	219.567	219.492	218.352	-2.0	-0.6	-0.5
Commodities less food	154.128	153.561	151.424	-7.1	-1.8	-1.4
Nondurables	217.267	217.206	215.325	-4.9	-0.9	-0.9
Nondurables less food	197.685	196.967	192.767	-10.5	-2.5	-2.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	245.659	243.546	234.270	-12.4	-4.6	-3.8
Services less rent of shelter [2]	307.109	307.300	306.421	0.7	-0.2	-0.3
Services less medical care services	257.567	257.700	257.562	1.4	0.0	-0.1
Energy	212.965	210.174	196.400	-19.2	-7.8	-6.6
All items less energy	229.735	229.998	230.708	1.3	0.4	0.3
All items less food and energy	228.702	228.873	229.518	1.3	0.4	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	145.704	145.827	146.679	-0.8	0.7	0.6
Energy commodities	244.054	238.255	213.486	-29.8	-12.5	-10.4
Services less energy services	283.345	283.548	284.040	2.0	0.2	0.2

Footnotes
(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.
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. Data not seasonally adjusted.

Table 2. 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-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	221.136	221.188	220.121	-1.3	-0.5	-0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	357.626	357.710	355.985			
Food and beverages	240.072	240.891	241.973	1.4	0.8	0.4
Food	239.885	240.695	241.787	1.4	0.8	0.5
Food at home	231.075	231.870	233.053	0.4	0.9	0.5
Food away from home	255.868	256.703	257.612	3.1	0.7	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	241.409	242.361	243.275	0.8	0.8	0.4
Housing	209.132	209.250	209.047	1.1	0.0	-0.1
Shelter	238.856	239.166	239.771	2.4	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	248.371	248.871	249.727	2.6	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	235.562	236.105	236.773	2.2	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	235.570	236.114	236.781	2.2	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	223.019	222.878	218.399	-4.1	-2.1	-2.0
Household energy	186.568	186.259	181.494	-6.3	-2.7	-2.6
Energy services [1]	193.555	193.195	188.191	-5.5	-2.8	-2.6
Electricity [1]	213.490	213.250	207.186	0.1	-3.0	-2.8
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	148.096	147.510	144.758	-18.3	-2.3	-1.9
Household furnishings and operations	114.661	114.283	114.739	-0.1	0.1	0.4
Apparel	114.283	116.270	119.975	-2.8	5.0	3.2
Transportation	203.697	201.850	194.299	-10.7	-4.6	-3.7
Private transportation	200.232	198.468	190.969	-11.0	-4.6	-3.8
New and used motor vehicles [3]	100.590	100.144	99.407	-1.0	-1.2	-0.7
New vehicles	142.441	141.956	142.154	-0.1	-0.2	0.1
Used cars and trucks	152.193	152.033	149.617	-2.0	-1.7	-1.6
Motor fuel	247.174	241.344	215.580	-29.8	-12.8	-10.7
Gasoline (all types)	245.798	240.066	214.259	-29.8	-12.8	-10.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	241.675	235.690	209.055	-30.8	-13.5	-11.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	275.352	268.344	243.984	-27.7	-11.4	-9.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	254.381	252.010	232.058	-23.7	-8.8	-7.9
Medical Care	456.457	456.326	456.862	2.0	0.1	0.1
Medical care commodities	359.858	358.749	357.267	1.4	-0.7	-0.4
Medical care services	486.179	486.451	487.803	2.1	0.3	0.3
Professional services	393.314	393.791	395.080	1.7	0.4	0.3
Recreation [3]	113.867	114.046	114.143	0.2	0.2	0.1
Education and communication [3]	131.317	131.790	132.213	-0.8	0.7	0.3
Other goods and services	446.645	448.433	447.519	2.5	0.2	-0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	221.136	221.188	220.121	-1.3	-0.5	-0.5
Commodities	183.710	183.529	181.684	-4.6	-1.1	-1.0
Commodities less food & beverages	156.230	155.614	152.514	-8.3	-2.4	-2.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	204.617	203.702	197.491	-12.4	-3.5	-3.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	260.277	257.652	245.557	-14.8	-5.7	-4.7
Durables	110.139	109.797	109.447	-1.1	-0.6	-0.3
Services	265.736	266.053	265.860	1.4	0.0	-0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	237.187	237.499	238.116	2.3	0.4	0.3
Transportation services	293.227	292.421	291.313	2.6	-0.7	-0.4
Other services	302.894	304.140	304.454	0.5	0.5	0.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. 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) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	212.095	212.153	211.030	-1.6	-0.5	-0.5
All items less food	217.492	217.407	215.950	-1.8	-0.7	-0.7
All items less shelter	217.218	217.179	215.507	-2.7	-0.8	-0.8
Commodities less food	158.858	158.280	155.271	-8.0	-2.3	-1.9
Nondurables	222.655	222.578	219.883	-5.5	-1.2	-1.2
Nondurables less food	206.439	205.621	199.786	-11.7	-3.2	-2.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	257.002	254.683	243.718	-13.7	-5.2	-4.3
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	272.277	272.569	271.482	0.4	-0.3	-0.4
Services less medical care services	251.093	251.410	251.130	1.3	0.0	-0.1
Energy	214.066	211.181	196.639	-20.0	-8.1	-6.9
All items less energy	223.774	224.189	224.780	1.2	0.4	0.3
All items less food and energy	220.754	221.087	221.573	1.2	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.253	149.490	150.033	-0.7	0.5	0.4
Energy commodities	245.462	239.832	214.743	-29.8	-12.5	-10.5
Services less energy services	275.282	275.688	276.129	2.0	0.3	0.2

Footnotes
(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.
(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
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. Data not seasonally adjusted.