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Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – February 2015

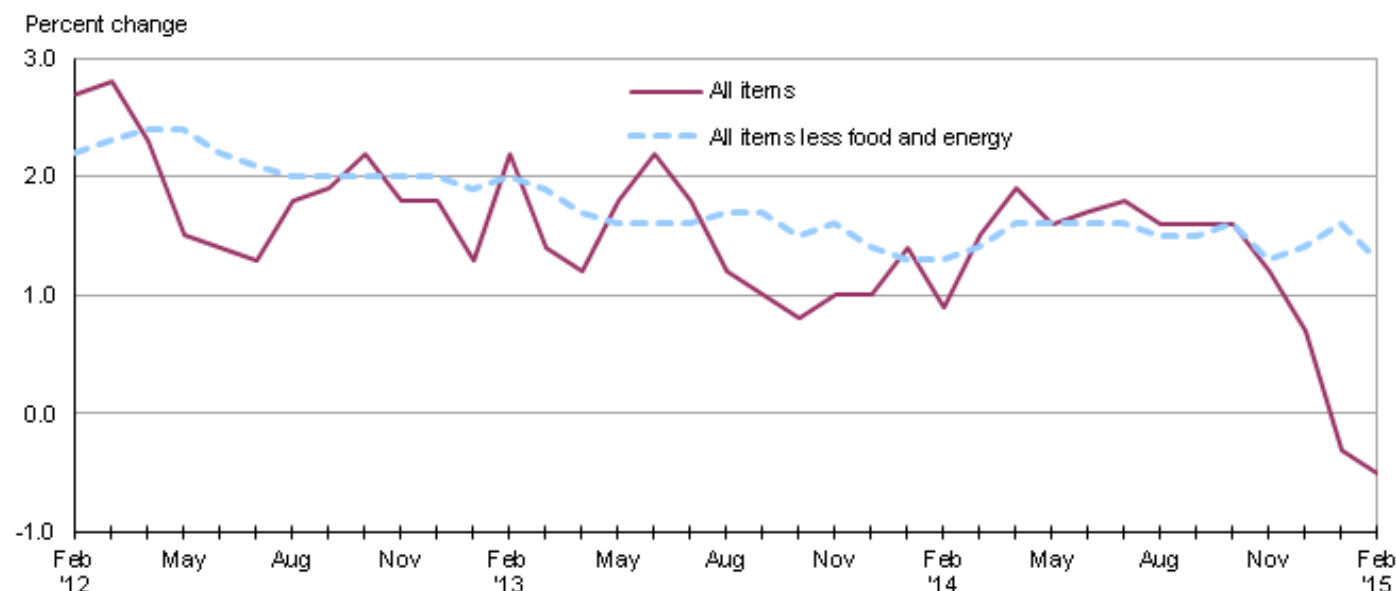
Prices in the Midwest up 0.3 percent in February but 0.5 percent lower over the year

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The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.3 percent in February, following four consecutive monthly declines, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly increase was largely attributable to an 11.3-percent advance in motor fuel prices. Overall, the energy index was 3.8 percent higher. The indexes for food (-0.1 percent) and all items less food and energy (0.1 percent) registered little movement over the month.

The CPI-U for the Midwest declined 0.5 percent from February 2014 to February 2015. Food prices increased 2.6 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 19.3 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.3 percent over the year. (See [chart 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were little changed (-0.1 percent) in February. The index for food at home declined 0.3 percent while costs for food away from home rose 0.2 percent.

From February 2014 to February 2015, the index for food increased 2.6 percent. Rising costs for food at home (2.2 percent) and food away from home (3.3 percent) both contributed to the yearly advance.

Energy

The energy index turned up 3.8 percent in February following seven consecutive monthly declines and had the greatest upward impact on the all items index. Motor fuel prices rebounded 11.3 percent, the largest one-month gain since February 2013, after falling a total of 46.6 percent over the prior seven months. Costs for utility (piped) gas service and electricity were down 4.5 and 0.6 percent, respectively, over the month.

Despite the monthly increase, the index for energy fell 19.3 percent from February 2014 to February 2015, led by a drop of 33.1 percent in motor fuel prices. Costs for utility (piped) gas service were 9.4 percent lower over the year, while electricity prices advanced 5.0 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest registered little movement (0.1 percent) in February due to offsetting movements. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included shelter (0.1 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (0.5 percent). In contrast, medical care services (-0.5 percent) and recreation (-0.4 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month.

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

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 222.301 in February 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$222.30 in February 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 February, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 217.027, up 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W decreased 1.1 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		
April.....	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9		
May.....	0.6	3.8	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6		
June.....	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7		

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

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
July.....	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8		
August.....	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6		
September.....	0.2	3.9	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6		
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 March 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 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-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	222.821	221.545	222.301	-0.5	-0.2	0.3
All items (December 1977=100).....	362.542	360.466	361.696			
Food and beverages.....	238.848	239.433	239.275	2.5	0.2	-0.1
Food.....	238.502	239.148	238.916	2.6	0.2	-0.1
Food at home.....	230.585	231.378	230.747	2.2	0.1	-0.3
Food away from home.....	251.640	252.035	252.483	3.3	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	241.346	240.980	241.966	1.3	0.3	0.4
Housing.....	210.686	211.328	211.179	1.4	0.2	-0.1
Shelter.....	245.502	246.573	246.874	2.2	0.6	0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	244.632	244.939	245.410	2.6	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	249.958	250.385	250.690	1.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	249.951	250.378	250.685	1.8	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	218.569	217.721	215.005	-1.0	-1.6	-1.2
Household energy.....	184.385	182.922	179.695	-2.3	-2.5	-1.8
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	190.767	189.470	186.000	0.0	-2.5	-1.8
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	194.159	196.851	195.755	5.0	0.8	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	176.334	167.872	160.257	-9.4	-9.1	-4.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	115.787	116.099	116.183	-1.3	0.3	0.1
Apparel.....	118.655	115.993	116.338	-2.7	-2.0	0.3
Transportation.....	196.890	186.659	192.031	-10.0	-2.5	2.9
Private transportation.....	191.399	180.875	186.370	-10.5	-2.6	3.0
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	98.346	98.024	98.552	-0.3	0.2	0.5
New vehicles.....	139.677	139.278	140.017	1.0	0.2	0.5
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	98.806	98.557	99.092	1.1	0.3	0.5
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	136.115	136.062	136.720	1.0	0.4	0.5
Used cars and trucks.....	142.324	141.597	143.466	-3.2	0.8	1.3
Motor fuel.....	224.340	179.847	200.255	-33.1	-10.7	11.3
Gasoline (all types).....	222.214	178.034	198.686	-33.1	-10.6	11.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	218.865	174.164	194.779	-33.8	-11.0	11.8
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	247.863	203.169	228.057	-31.0	-8.0	12.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	229.751	190.240	208.943	-29.3	-9.1	9.8
Medical Care.....	445.585	448.542	447.300	2.3	0.4	-0.3
Medical care commodities.....	361.396	363.130	365.206	4.4	1.1	0.6
Medical care services.....	473.715	477.121	474.584	1.7	0.2	-0.5
Professional services.....	386.698	389.035	385.706	0.6	-0.3	-0.9
Recreation ⁽³⁾	116.968	117.892	117.470	0.1	0.4	-0.4
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	139.531	139.651	139.657	0.6	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services.....	394.717	398.280	397.738	1.2	0.8	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	222.821	221.545	222.301	-0.5	-0.2	0.3
Commodities.....	178.370	174.605	176.435	-4.0	-1.1	1.0
Commodities less food & beverages.....	148.847	143.337	145.962	-8.1	-1.9	1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	191.442	179.848	184.760	-12.2	-3.5	2.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	239.170	221.800	229.659	-14.8	-4.0	3.5
Durables.....	106.551	106.515	107.062	-1.3	0.5	0.5
Services.....	268.852	270.031	269.730	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	252.083	253.195	253.509	2.2	0.6	0.1
Transportation services.....	289.221	290.298	290.801	2.8	0.5	0.2

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-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Other services.....	324.173	326.324	325.980	1.3	0.6	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care.....	212.278	210.802	211.653	-0.8	-0.3	0.4
All items less food.....	220.172	218.584	219.501	-1.1	-0.3	0.4
All items less shelter.....	216.928	214.755	215.691	-1.7	-0.6	0.4
Commodities less food.....	151.808	146.403	148.998	-7.7	-1.9	1.8
Nondurables.....	214.935	209.039	211.580	-4.9	-1.6	1.2
Nondurables less food.....	194.133	183.107	187.821	-11.4	-3.3	2.6
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	238.109	222.209	229.469	-13.7	-3.6	3.3
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	302.904	304.224	303.202	1.6	0.1	-0.3
Services less medical care services.....	253.549	254.568	254.424	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Energy.....	202.495	182.372	189.377	-19.3	-6.5	3.8
All items less energy.....	227.440	228.107	228.223	1.5	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy.....	226.116	226.789	226.969	1.3	0.4	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	145.572	145.105	145.475	-0.7	-0.1	0.3
Energy commodities.....	225.032	181.925	201.538	-33.2	-10.4	10.8
Services less energy services.....	279.085	280.543	280.589	2.0	0.5	0.0

⁽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-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	217.963	216.078	217.027	-1.1	-0.4	0.4
All items (December 1977=100).....	352.495	349.446	350.981			
Food and beverages.....	239.338	239.991	239.666	2.6	0.1	-0.1
Food.....	239.080	239.768	239.385	2.7	0.1	-0.2
Food at home.....	231.515	232.308	231.542	2.4	0.0	-0.3
Food away from home.....	252.648	253.129	253.490	3.4	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages.....	241.812	241.893	242.511	1.0	0.3	0.3
Housing.....	206.164	206.640	206.414	1.3	0.1	-0.1
Shelter.....	235.306	236.119	236.406	2.2	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	245.286	245.595	246.060	2.6	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	232.969	233.400	233.691	1.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	232.975	233.407	233.700	1.8	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	219.178	218.536	215.810	-0.8	-1.5	-1.2
Household energy.....	184.674	183.411	180.209	-2.0	-2.4	-1.7
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	189.589	188.456	185.079	0.0	-2.4	-1.8
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	192.669	195.526	194.393	4.9	0.9	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	177.632	168.633	160.916	-9.9	-9.4	-4.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	114.258	114.507	114.487	-1.7	0.2	0.0
Apparel.....	117.288	114.597	114.419	-2.2	-2.4	-0.2
Transportation.....	194.759	183.096	189.218	-11.7	-2.8	3.3
Private transportation.....	191.321	179.522	185.670	-12.0	-3.0	3.4
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	97.870	97.498	98.217	-1.1	0.4	0.7
New vehicles.....	143.063	142.641	143.328	0.8	0.2	0.5
Used cars and trucks.....	142.955	142.225	144.095	-3.2	0.8	1.3
Motor fuel.....	225.180	180.515	200.933	-33.1	-10.8	11.3
Gasoline (all types).....	222.983	178.650	199.303	-33.1	-10.6	11.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	219.488	174.659	195.253	-33.8	-11.0	11.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	247.730	203.070	228.044	-31.0	-7.9	12.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	229.935	190.409	208.996	-29.3	-9.1	9.8
Medical Care.....	450.786	453.803	452.580	2.3	0.4	-0.3
Medical care commodities.....	355.343	356.996	358.683	4.3	0.9	0.5
Medical care services.....	480.157	483.667	481.278	1.7	0.2	-0.5
Professional services.....	387.930	390.217	387.210	0.7	-0.2	-0.8
Recreation ⁽³⁾	113.750	114.132	114.057	0.1	0.3	-0.1
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	131.794	131.951	131.885	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Other goods and services.....	437.049	441.322	440.161	1.0	0.7	-0.3
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	217.963	216.078	217.027	-1.1	-0.4	0.4
Commodities.....	181.034	176.612	178.621	-4.7	-1.3	1.1
Commodities less food & beverages.....	152.744	146.162	149.165	-9.3	-2.3	2.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	199.315	185.389	191.073	-13.9	-4.1	3.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	250.045	229.357	238.547	-16.7	-4.6	4.0
Durables.....	108.310	108.200	108.822	-1.5	0.5	0.6
Services.....	261.968	262.946	262.700	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	233.619	234.435	234.724	2.1	0.5	0.1
Transportation services.....	288.068	289.670	290.358	3.4	0.8	0.2
Other services.....	301.171	302.686	302.749	1.0	0.5	0.0

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-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care.....	209.019	206.957	207.984	-1.4	-0.5	0.5
All items less food.....	213.894	211.544	212.734	-1.9	-0.5	0.6
All items less shelter.....	214.145	211.281	212.475	-2.4	-0.8	0.6
Commodities less food.....	155.460	149.027	151.978	-8.9	-2.2	2.0
Nondurables.....	219.550	212.646	215.436	-5.7	-1.9	1.3
Nondurables less food.....	201.438	188.251	193.667	-13.0	-3.9	2.9
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	247.696	228.820	237.257	-15.5	-4.2	3.7
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	268.647	269.714	268.890	1.6	0.1	-0.3
Services less medical care services.....	247.483	248.308	248.187	1.9	0.3	0.0
Energy.....	202.801	181.292	189.124	-20.3	-6.7	4.3
All items less energy.....	221.576	222.101	222.207	1.5	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy.....	218.259	218.751	218.960	1.2	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	148.382	147.884	148.147	-0.8	-0.2	0.2
Energy commodities.....	226.120	182.538	202.323	-33.2	-10.5	10.8
Services less energy services.....	271.540	272.796	272.963	2.0	0.5	0.1

⁽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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