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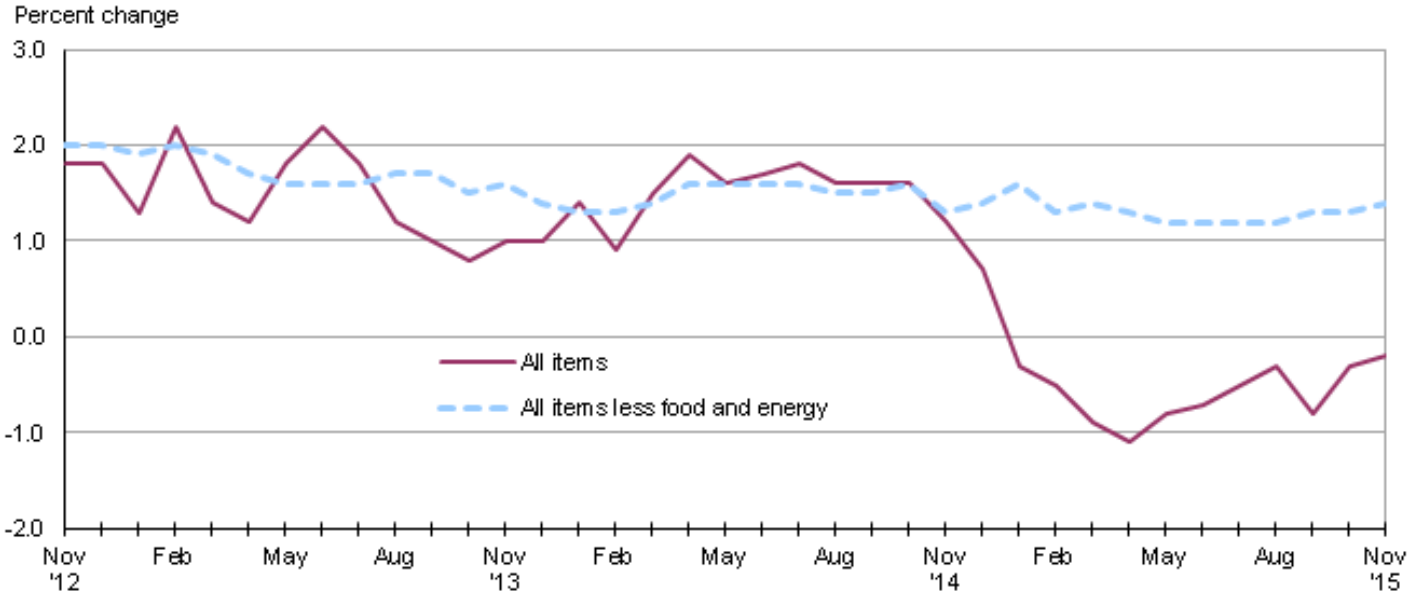
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – November 2015

Prices in the Midwest down 0.5 percent in November and 0.2 percent lower over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was down 0.5 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly decrease was largely attributable to an 8.7-percent drop in motor fuel prices. The broader energy index was 4.8 percent lower over the month. Food prices declined 0.4 percent while the index for all items less food and energy was unchanged. (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 0.2 percent from November 2014 to November 2015, the eleventh consecutive month of over-the-year decline.(See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices increased 0.8 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 15.2 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.4 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest declined 0.4 percent in November. The index for food at home decreased 0.8 percent while costs for food away from home were up 0.2 percent.

From November 2014 to November 2015, the index for food rose 0.8 percent, the smallest over-the-year increase since December 2013. Rising costs for food away from home (2.5 percent) were responsible for the yearly advance. Prices for food at home were 0.3 percent lower over the year.

Energy

The energy index registered its fifth consecutive monthly decline, falling 4.8 percent in November, and had the greatest downward impact on the all items index. The decrease in energy costs was largely attributable to an 8.7-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Lower costs for utility (piped) gas service (-2.5 percent) and electricity (-0.5 percent) also contributed to the monthly decline.

Energy prices fell 15.2 percent from November 2014 to November 2015, led by a drop of 23.9 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 19.1 percent lower over the year, while electricity prices were up 2.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest was unchanged in November due to offsetting movements. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included owners' equivalent rent of residences and medical care services, each up 0.3 percent. In contrast, apparel (-2.2 percent) and used cars and trucks (-1.9 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.4 percent from November 2014 to November 2015. Higher costs for shelter (2.3 percent) and medical care services (2.8 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 224.009 in November 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $224.01 in November 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 November, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 218.569, down 0.6 percent over the month. The CPI-W decreased 0.6 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	-0.1	-0.3
November	0.0	3.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.2
December	-0.2	2.8	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	0.7		

The December 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

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-		
	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	225.184	225.050	224.009	-0.2	-0.5	-0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	366.386	366.170	364.475			
Food and beverages	241.353	241.006	240.006	0.7	-0.6	-0.4
Food	241.100	240.695	239.676	0.8	-0.6	-0.4
Food at home	231.872	231.063	229.217	-0.3	-1.1	-0.8
Food away from home	256.469	256.751	257.145	2.5	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	242.382	242.937	242.242	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3
Housing	213.827	212.917	212.784	1.2	-0.5	-0.1
Shelter	250.435	250.776	251.104	2.3	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	249.093	249.885	250.581	2.6	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	253.970	254.346	255.101	2.1	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	253.963	254.339	255.095	2.1	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities	217.460	209.651	207.998	-3.4	-4.4	-0.8
Household energy	180.872	172.729	170.868	-5.7	-5.5	-1.1
Energy services [1]	189.089	180.075	178.131	-4.7	-5.8	-1.1
Electricity [1]	209.357	196.961	195.913	2.4	-6.4	-0.5
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	144.182	141.681	138.200	-19.1	-4.1	-2.5
Household furnishings and operations	116.226	115.743	115.088	-1.1	-1.0	-0.6
Apparel	121.530	122.731	120.087	-2.4	-1.2	-2.2
Transportation	195.985	196.789	192.703	-6.4	-1.7	-2.1
Private transportation	190.680	191.149	186.808	-6.7	-2.0	-2.3
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.911	98.505	98.198	-0.3	-0.7	-0.3
New vehicles	138.849	139.115	139.507	0.2	0.5	0.3
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	98.363	98.543	98.734	0.2	0.4	0.2
New cars [4]	135.590	135.531	135.628	0.1	0.0	0.1
Used cars and trucks	148.968	146.290	143.518	-0.9	-3.7	-1.9
Motor fuel	214.907	217.297	198.363	-23.9	-7.7	-8.7
Gasoline (all types)	213.670	216.014	197.007	-23.8	-7.8	-8.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	208.627	210.759	191.809	-24.8	-8.1	-9.0
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	244.167	248.063	227.208	-21.6	-6.9	-8.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	231.993	235.064	216.831	-17.5	-6.5	-7.8
Medical Care	451.793	454.680	456.198	2.6	1.0	0.3
Medical care commodities	363.415	366.054	367.345	1.8	1.1	0.4
Medical care services	481.504	484.457	486.047	2.8	0.9	0.3
Professional services	393.729	392.671	393.089	1.6	-0.2	0.1
Recreation [3]	118.002	117.320	116.914	0.1	-0.9	-0.3
Education and communication [3]	140.481	140.687	140.814	0.7	0.2	0.1
Other goods and services	402.044	402.313	402.790	2.1	0.2	0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	225.184	225.050	224.009	-0.2	-0.5	-0.5
Commodities	178.825	178.837	176.406	-3.0	-1.4	-1.4
Commodities less food & beverages	148.428	148.592	145.614	-5.5	-1.9	-2.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	189.947	191.141	185.783	-8.0	-2.2	-2.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	234.876	236.073	228.948	-9.8	-2.5	-3.0
Durables	107.081	106.346	105.538	-1.4	-1.4	-0.8
Services	273.126	272.847	273.173	1.8	0.0	0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	257.223	257.566	257.912	2.3	0.3	0.1

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-		
	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
Transportation services	291.045	293.796	296.418	2.2	1.8	0.9
Other services	329.082	329.079	328.985	1.5	0.0	0.0
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	214.459	214.182	213.020	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5
All items less food	222.496	222.407	221.362	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5
All items less shelter	218.352	218.039	216.470	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7
Commodities less food	151.424	151.598	148.664	-5.3	-1.8	-1.9
Nondurables	215.325	215.796	212.470	-3.5	-1.3	-1.5
Nondurables less food	192.767	193.929	188.806	-7.5	-2.1	-2.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	234.270	235.409	228.843	-9.0	-2.3	-2.8
Services less rent of shelter [2]	306.421	305.415	305.736	1.3	-0.2	0.1
Services less medical care services	257.562	257.059	257.295	1.6	-0.1	0.1
Energy	196.400	192.789	183.519	-15.2	-6.6	-4.8
All items less energy	230.708	230.934	230.735	1.3	0.0	-0.1
All items less food and energy	229.518	229.863	229.815	1.4	0.1	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.679	146.534	145.592	-0.8	-0.7	-0.6
Energy commodities	213.486	216.065	197.788	-24.1	-7.4	-8.5
Services less energy services	284.040	284.720	285.298	2.2	0.4	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-		
	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	220.121	219.875	218.569	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6
All items (December 1977=100)	355.985	355.586	353.474			
Food and beverages	241.973	241.461	240.322	0.6	-0.7	-0.5
Food	241.787	241.190	240.036	0.7	-0.7	-0.5
Food at home	233.053	232.007	230.047	-0.3	-1.3	-0.8
Food away from home	257.612	257.892	258.309	2.5	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	243.275	244.122	243.231	0.0	0.0	-0.4
Housing	209.047	208.058	207.969	1.1	-0.5	0.0
Shelter	239.771	240.194	240.625	2.3	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	249.727	250.509	251.213	2.6	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	236.773	237.115	237.803	2.2	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	236.781	237.123	237.810	2.2	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities	218.399	210.660	209.033	-3.2	-4.3	-0.8
Household energy	181.494	173.482	171.663	-5.4	-5.4	-1.0
Energy services [1]	188.191	179.422	177.558	-4.5	-5.7	-1.0
Electricity [1]	207.186	195.380	194.351	2.2	-6.2	-0.5
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	144.758	142.275	138.815	-19.2	-4.1	-2.4
Household furnishings and operations	114.739	114.147	113.399	-1.3	-1.2	-0.7
Apparel	119.975	121.140	118.743	-2.2	-1.0	-2.0
Transportation	194.299	194.737	189.647	-7.4	-2.4	-2.6
Private transportation	190.969	191.259	186.033	-7.7	-2.6	-2.7
New and used motor vehicles [3]	99.407	98.690	98.032	-0.4	-1.4	-0.7
New vehicles	142.154	142.383	142.788	0.1	0.4	0.3
Used cars and trucks	149.617	146.942	144.166	-0.9	-3.6	-1.9
Motor fuel	215.580	218.046	198.865	-24.0	-7.8	-8.8
Gasoline (all types)	214.259	216.666	197.425	-23.9	-7.9	-8.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	209.055	211.233	192.083	-24.9	-8.1	-9.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	243.984	248.076	227.061	-21.6	-6.9	-8.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	232.058	235.222	216.638	-17.7	-6.6	-7.9
Medical Care	456.862	460.010	461.573	2.6	1.0	0.3
Medical care commodities	357.267	359.927	361.112	1.8	1.1	0.3
Medical care services	487.803	491.082	492.767	2.8	1.0	0.3
Professional services	395.080	394.117	394.590	1.7	-0.1	0.1
Recreation [3]	114.143	113.510	113.152	-0.4	-0.9	-0.3
Education and communication [3]	132.213	132.471	132.656	0.4	0.3	0.1
Other goods and services	447.519	447.525	448.371	2.7	0.2	0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	220.121	219.875	218.569	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6
Commodities	181.684	181.544	178.735	-3.5	-1.6	-1.5
Commodities less food & beverages	152.514	152.538	149.039	-6.2	-2.3	-2.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	197.491	198.714	192.404	-9.0	-2.6	-3.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	245.557	246.832	238.147	-10.9	-3.0	-3.5
Durables	109.447	108.448	107.455	-1.4	-1.8	-0.9
Services	265.860	265.490	265.879	1.7	0.0	0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	238.116	238.531	238.969	2.3	0.4	0.2
Transportation services	291.313	293.698	296.449	2.7	1.8	0.9
Other services	304.454	304.687	304.817	1.2	0.1	0.0

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-		
	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	211.030	210.659	209.250	-0.8	-0.8	-0.7
All items less food	215.950	215.767	214.435	-0.9	-0.7	-0.6
All items less shelter	215.507	215.019	213.082	-1.7	-1.1	-0.9
Commodities less food	155.271	155.317	151.873	-5.9	-2.2	-2.2
Nondurables	219.883	220.269	216.444	-4.1	-1.6	-1.7
Nondurables less food	199.786	200.989	194.966	-8.5	-2.4	-3.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	243.718	244.949	236.950	-10.0	-2.8	-3.3
Services less rent of shelter [2]	271.482	270.265	270.562	1.1	-0.3	0.1
Services less medical care services	251.130	250.552	250.864	1.6	-0.1	0.1
Energy	196.639	193.549	183.637	-15.8	-6.6	-5.1
All items less energy	224.780	224.883	224.630	1.3	-0.1	-0.1
All items less food and energy	221.573	221.823	221.760	1.4	0.1	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	150.033	149.653	148.623	-0.7	-0.9	-0.7
Energy commodities	214.743	217.373	198.675	-24.1	-7.5	-8.6
Services less energy services	276.129	276.865	277.551	2.3	0.5	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.
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