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

For Release: Thursday, April 14, 2016 **16-756-KAN**

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.
Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains
Media contact: (816) 285-7000

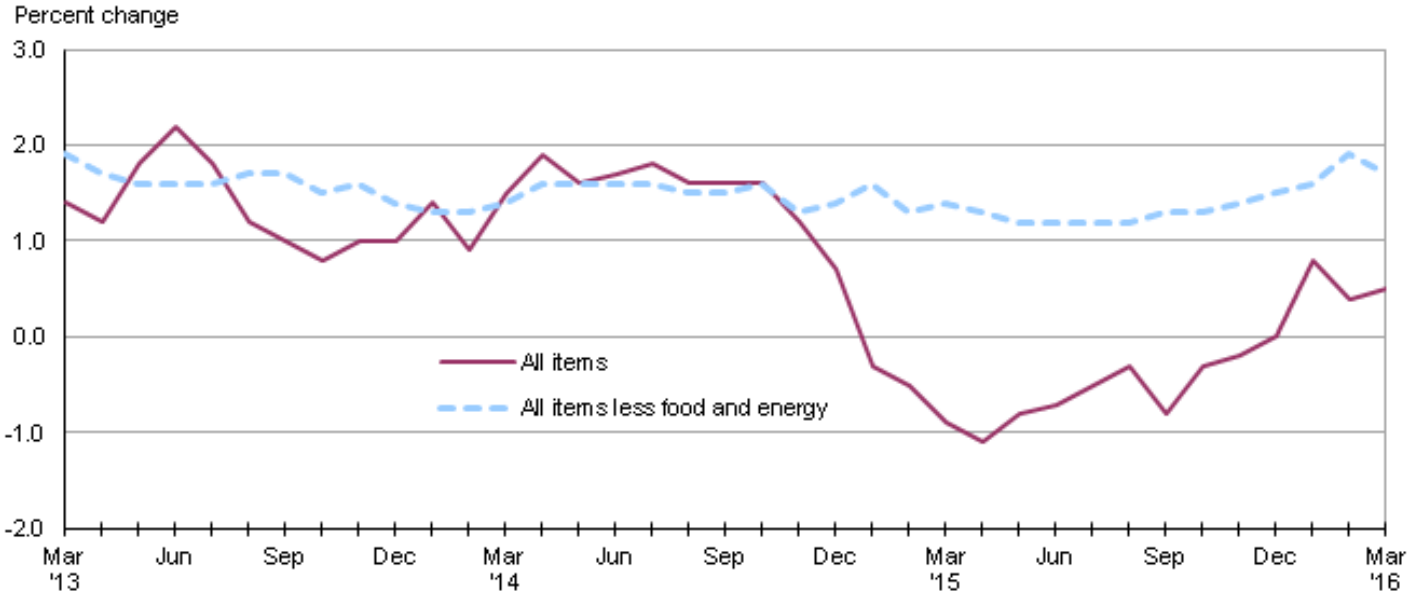
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – March 2016

Prices in the Midwest up 0.6 percent in March and 0.5 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.6 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly advance was largely attributable to a 20.2-percent increase in motor fuel prices. The broader energy index was 7.7 percent higher over the month. Food prices declined 0.4 percent while 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 advanced 0.5 percent from March 2015 to March 2016. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 11.6 percent, but prices for food were up 0.6 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.7 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, March 2013–March 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest declined 0.4 percent in March. The index for food at home decreased 0.9 percent while costs for food away from home were up 0.3 percent.

From March 2015 to March 2016, the index for food advanced 0.6 percent. Rising costs for food away from home (2.5 percent) were responsible for the yearly advance. Prices for food at home registered their sixth consecutive over-the-year decline, down 0.6 percent since March 2015.

Energy

The energy index turned up 7.7 percent in March following eight consecutive monthly declines and had the greatest upward impact on the all items index. The increase in energy costs was mainly attributable to a 20.2-percent advance in motor fuel prices, the largest one-month gain since June 2000. Costs for electricity registered little movement (0.1 percent) and prices for utility (piped) gas service were 1.3 percent lower over the month.

Despite the monthly advance, energy prices fell 11.6 percent from March 2015 to March 2016. Prices for motor fuel and utility (piped) gas service were down 18.9 and 14.4 percent, respectively. Costs for electricity were 0.4 percent higher over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest rose 0.3 percent in March. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included shelter (0.2 percent), used cars and trucks (1.5 percent), medical care services (0.3 percent), and recreation (0.4 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.7 percent from March 2015 to March 2016. A 2.6-percent rise in shelter costs led the advance. Prices for medical care services had the next largest upward impact with a 3.7-percent increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 224.621 in March 2016. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $224.62 in March 2016.

CPI-W

In March, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 218.761, up 0.8 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 0.1 percent over the year.

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.6	2.8	0.1	1.3	0.5	1.4	-0.6	-0.3	0.3	0.8
February	0.2	2.7	1.1	2.2	0.6	0.9	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.4
March	1.0	2.8	0.2	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.6	-0.9	0.6	0.5
April	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.1	-1.1		
May	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8		
June	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7		
July	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5		
August	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3		
September	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.8		
October	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.3		
November	-0.4	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.2		
December	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0		

The April 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, May 17, 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.

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

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-		
	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Mar. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	223.301	223.196	224.621	0.5	0.6	0.6
All items (December 1977=100)	363.324	363.153	365.470			
Food and beverages	241.228	240.839	240.000	0.7	-0.5	-0.3
Food	240.910	240.425	239.494	0.6	-0.6	-0.4
Food at home	230.695	229.779	227.791	-0.6	-1.3	-0.9
Food away from home	257.959	258.214	259.091	2.5	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	243.266	244.264	244.757	1.1	0.6	0.2
Housing	213.978	214.511	214.948	1.6	0.5	0.2
Shelter	252.717	253.512	254.079	2.6	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	251.478	252.375	252.535	2.7	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	256.205	256.960	257.322	2.5	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	256.195	256.948	257.309	2.5	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities	209.516	209.027	209.184	-2.7	-0.2	0.1
Household energy	171.981	171.352	170.820	-4.8	-0.7	-0.3
Energy services [1]	179.413	178.723	178.097	-4.2	-0.7	-0.4
Electricity [1]	197.846	196.735	196.855	0.4	-0.5	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	138.180	138.218	136.418	-14.4	-1.3	-1.3
Household furnishings and operations	114.861	115.264	115.511	-0.2	0.6	0.2
Apparel	115.113	117.623	117.964	-1.0	2.5	0.3
Transportation	185.470	182.112	188.629	-4.2	1.7	3.6
Private transportation	179.619	176.285	182.902	-4.4	1.8	3.8
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.592	99.063	99.422	-0.3	0.8	0.4
New vehicles	141.020	141.195	140.696	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	99.786	99.911	99.453	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5
New cars [4]	137.361	137.367	136.600	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6
Used cars and trucks	142.892	144.399	146.614	-0.4	2.6	1.5
Motor fuel	165.273	146.354	175.857	-18.9	6.4	20.2
Gasoline (all types)	164.221	145.296	174.991	-18.7	6.6	20.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	158.679	139.779	169.684	-19.8	6.9	21.4
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	193.684	174.959	206.842	-15.4	6.8	18.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	189.455	171.411	196.600	-12.3	3.8	14.7
Medical Care	460.482	462.960	464.165	3.4	0.8	0.3
Medical care commodities	372.142	375.338	375.463	2.2	0.9	0.0
Medical care services	490.115	492.328	493.913	3.7	0.8	0.3
Professional services	398.690	399.648	400.045	3.3	0.3	0.1
Recreation [3]	117.035	117.977	118.423	0.5	1.2	0.4
Education and communication [3]	140.759	140.329	140.305	0.3	-0.3	0.0
Other goods and services	404.001	405.629	406.810	1.8	0.7	0.3
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	223.301	223.196	224.621	0.5	0.6	0.6
Commodities	173.702	172.721	174.833	-1.9	0.7	1.2
Commodities less food & beverages	141.346	140.158	143.386	-3.7	1.4	2.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	176.365	173.387	180.382	-5.2	2.3	4.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	216.630	210.121	221.418	-6.6	2.2	5.4
Durables	105.740	105.962	106.174	-1.2	0.4	0.2
Services	274.459	275.247	275.973	2.0	0.6	0.3
Rent of shelter [2]	259.585	260.370	260.998	2.6	0.5	0.2

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-		
	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Mar. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016
Transportation services	295.273	295.789	296.699	1.8	0.5	0.3
Other services	329.565	330.888	332.058	1.7	0.8	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	212.075	211.847	213.282	0.2	0.6	0.7
All items less food	220.340	220.295	222.095	0.4	0.8	0.8
All items less shelter	214.900	214.473	216.216	-0.4	0.6	0.8
Commodities less food	144.511	143.374	146.546	-3.5	1.4	2.2
Nondurables	208.046	206.289	209.582	-2.1	0.7	1.6
Nondurables less food	179.932	177.175	183.807	-4.8	2.2	3.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	217.696	211.880	222.168	-5.9	2.1	4.9
Services less rent of shelter [2]	306.664	307.502	308.376	1.5	0.6	0.3
Services less medical care services	258.377	259.060	259.722	1.8	0.5	0.3
Energy	169.831	161.307	173.728	-11.6	2.3	7.7
All items less energy	231.350	232.074	232.431	1.6	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	230.318	231.263	231.855	1.7	0.7	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	144.964	145.862	146.051	-0.4	0.7	0.1
Energy commodities	165.933	147.858	176.121	-19.0	6.1	19.1
Services less energy services	286.596	287.547	288.421	2.5	0.6	0.3

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-		
	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Mar. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	217.406	217.002	218.761	0.1	0.6	0.8
All items (December 1977=100)	351.594	350.941	353.785			
Food and beverages	241.307	240.951	239.989	0.5	-0.5	-0.4
Food	241.015	240.570	239.513	0.4	-0.6	-0.4
Food at home	231.145	230.355	228.384	-0.7	-1.2	-0.9
Food away from home	259.032	259.306	260.146	2.5	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	244.304	245.408	245.996	1.4	0.7	0.2
Housing	208.964	209.482	209.859	1.5	0.4	0.2
Shelter	241.844	242.636	243.086	2.5	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	252.081	252.973	253.145	2.7	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	238.818	239.532	239.862	2.5	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	238.820	239.534	239.861	2.5	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities	210.607	210.129	210.408	-2.6	-0.1	0.1
Household energy	172.874	172.252	171.760	-4.6	-0.6	-0.3
Energy services [1]	178.924	178.226	177.673	-4.0	-0.7	-0.3
Electricity [1]	196.188	195.083	195.335	0.4	-0.4	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	139.096	139.151	137.209	-14.4	-1.4	-1.4
Household furnishings and operations	113.211	113.594	113.835	-0.3	0.6	0.2
Apparel	113.929	115.258	115.538	-1.7	1.4	0.2
Transportation	181.247	177.526	185.173	-4.9	2.2	4.3
Private transportation	177.641	173.913	181.634	-5.1	2.2	4.4
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.099	98.841	99.477	-0.2	1.4	0.6
New vehicles	144.190	144.582	144.213	0.1	0.0	-0.3
Used cars and trucks	143.507	145.015	147.239	-0.4	2.6	1.5
Motor fuel	165.692	146.423	176.242	-19.0	6.4	20.4
Gasoline (all types)	164.562	145.317	175.295	-18.8	6.5	20.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	158.866	139.683	169.849	-19.9	6.9	21.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	193.747	174.560	206.631	-15.5	6.6	18.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	189.441	171.138	196.371	-12.4	3.7	14.7
Medical Care	466.316	468.582	469.981	3.4	0.8	0.3
Medical care commodities	366.005	369.033	369.153	2.3	0.9	0.0
Medical care services	497.385	499.356	501.198	3.8	0.8	0.4
Professional services	401.087	402.160	402.541	3.6	0.4	0.1
Recreation [3]	113.315	114.165	114.733	0.2	1.3	0.5
Education and communication [3]	132.671	132.209	132.292	0.2	-0.3	0.1
Other goods and services	450.972	451.919	453.042	2.4	0.5	0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	217.406	217.002	218.761	0.1	0.6	0.8
Commodities	175.493	173.990	176.830	-2.2	0.8	1.6
Commodities less food & beverages	144.058	142.150	146.399	-4.1	1.6	3.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	181.446	176.450	185.478	-6.1	2.2	5.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	223.470	214.891	228.936	-7.4	2.4	6.5
Durables	107.546	107.992	108.512	-1.0	0.9	0.5
Services	267.013	267.765	268.419	1.9	0.5	0.2
Rent of shelter [2]	240.189	240.957	241.433	2.6	0.5	0.2
Transportation services	295.558	296.807	297.099	2.2	0.5	0.1
Other services	305.329	306.217	307.478	1.4	0.7	0.4

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-		
	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Mar. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	207.866	207.359	209.132	-0.1	0.6	0.9
All items less food	212.896	212.501	214.705	0.0	0.8	1.0
All items less shelter	211.060	210.225	212.470	-0.8	0.7	1.1
Commodities less food	147.024	145.173	149.361	-3.9	1.6	2.9
Nondurables	211.209	208.398	212.709	-2.6	0.7	2.1
Nondurables less food	184.632	179.937	188.549	-5.7	2.1	4.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	223.618	215.824	228.765	-6.7	2.3	6.0
Services less rent of shelter [2]	271.488	272.155	272.941	1.3	0.5	0.3
Services less medical care services	251.781	252.456	253.036	1.7	0.5	0.2
Energy	168.830	159.565	173.126	-12.0	2.5	8.5
All items less energy	225.128	225.775	226.145	1.5	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	222.160	223.008	223.644	1.7	0.7	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.090	148.833	149.248	-0.2	0.8	0.3
Energy commodities	166.562	148.184	176.686	-19.1	6.1	19.2
Services less energy services	278.666	279.597	280.401	2.5	0.6	0.3

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.