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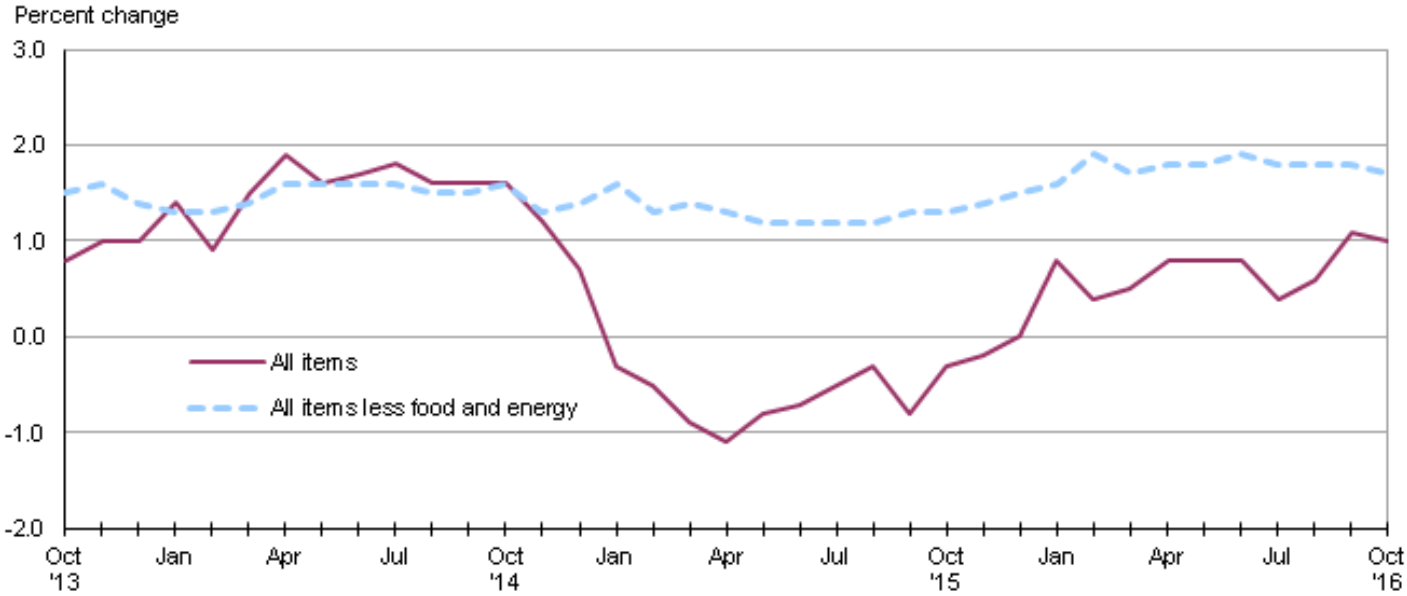
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – October 2016

Prices in the Midwest little changed in October, but 1.0 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest registered little movement in October (-0.1 percent), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Lower costs for electricity (-6.9 percent) had the largest downward impact on the index. Higher prices for apparel (1.6 percent), owners' equivalent rent of residences (0.2 percent), and medical care services (0.4 percent) had the largest upward impact on the all items index. Overall, energy costs were 2.3 percent lower over the month. Food prices rose 0.2 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 advanced 1.0 percent from October 2015 to October 2016. (See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices declined 0.2 percent, and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 2.9 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, October 2013–October 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest rose 0.2 percent in October. The index for food at home was little changed (0.1 percent) while costs for food away from home rose 0.2 percent.

From October 2015 to October 2016, the index for food decreased 0.2 percent. Prices for food at home registered their thirteenth consecutive over-the-year decrease, down 2.0 percent. Costs for food away from home rose 2.6 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index turned down 2.3 percent in October. The decrease was attributable to a 6.9-percent decline in electricity costs. Electricity prices typically decline in October reflecting a shift in seasonal rate schedules. In contrast, motor fuel prices rose 0.3 percent and utility (piped) gas service costs advanced 0.6 percent.

Energy costs declined 2.9 percent from October 2015 to October 2016, largely due to a 7.7-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Costs for utility (piped) gas service and electricity, up 3.8 and 0.7 percent, respectively, moderated the over-the-year decline.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest was unchanged in October due to offsetting movements. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included apparel (1.6 percent), owners' equivalent rent of residences (0.2 percent), and medical care services (0.4 percent). In contrast, used cars and trucks (-1.8 percent) and recreation (-0.5 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.7 percent from October 2015 to October 2016. A 2.8-percent rise in shelter costs led the advance. Prices for medical care services had the next largest upward impact with a 4.6-percent increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 227.358 in October 2016. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $227.36 in October 2016.

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	0.4	0.8
May	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8	0.4	0.8
June	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7	0.6	0.8
July	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.4
August	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3	0.1	0.6
September	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	1.1
October	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	1.0
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		

CPI-W

In October, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 221.422, down 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 0.7 percent over the year.

The November 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 15, 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-		
	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	227.097	227.636	227.358	1.0	0.1	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	369.500	370.376	369.924			
Food and beverages	240.178	240.247	240.694	-0.1	0.2	0.2
Food	239.736	239.803	240.215	-0.2	0.2	0.2
Food at home	226.294	226.091	226.418	-2.0	0.1	0.1
Food away from home	262.302	262.834	263.390	2.6	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	244.022	244.116	245.048	0.9	0.4	0.4
Housing	218.070	218.816	217.842	2.3	-0.1	-0.4
Shelter	256.634	257.954	257.898	2.8	0.5	0.0
Rent of primary residence [1]	255.594	256.240	256.812	2.8	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	260.595	261.237	261.657	2.9	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	260.584	261.227	261.647	2.9	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	222.530	222.299	214.514	2.3	-3.6	-3.5
Household energy	184.069	183.727	175.687	1.7	-4.6	-4.4
Energy services [1]	192.560	192.177	183.223	1.7	-4.8	-4.7
Electricity [1]	214.736	213.025	198.414	0.7	-7.6	-6.9
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	144.414	146.215	147.027	3.8	1.8	0.6
Household furnishings and operations	114.253	113.880	114.233	-1.3	0.0	0.3
Apparel	115.994	118.904	120.841	-1.5	4.2	1.6
Transportation	192.636	192.363	192.021	-2.4	-0.3	-0.2
Private transportation	187.362	186.994	186.761	-2.3	-0.3	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.492	97.673	97.075	-1.5	-1.4	-0.6
New vehicles	138.376	138.399	138.623	-0.4	0.2	0.2
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	97.776	97.819	97.983	-0.6	0.2	0.2
New cars [4]	134.179	134.235	134.836	-0.5	0.5	0.4
Used cars and trucks	145.698	143.225	140.615	-3.9	-3.5	-1.8
Motor fuel	198.802	200.085	200.608	-7.7	0.9	0.3
Gasoline (all types)	197.797	199.049	199.519	-7.6	0.9	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	192.156	193.392	193.667	-8.1	0.8	0.1
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	230.962	230.799	232.708	-6.2	0.8	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	220.799	222.432	223.743	-4.8	1.3	0.6
Medical Care	473.820	474.779	476.005	4.7	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities	384.871	385.764	384.715	5.1	0.0	-0.3
Medical care services	503.616	504.595	506.627	4.6	0.6	0.4
Professional services	408.263	408.037	407.456	3.8	-0.2	-0.1
Recreation [3]	118.858	119.023	118.379	0.9	-0.4	-0.5
Education and communication [3]	140.606	140.582	140.679	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other goods and services	408.757	410.438	410.481	2.0	0.4	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	227.097	227.636	227.358	1.0	0.1	-0.1
Commodities	175.837	176.146	176.386	-1.4	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food & beverages	144.689	145.084	145.235	-2.3	0.4	0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	185.412	186.888	187.811	-1.7	1.3	0.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	230.959	231.527	231.805	-1.8	0.4	0.1
Durables	104.623	104.189	103.756	-2.4	-0.8	-0.4
Services	279.959	280.733	279.926	2.6	0.0	-0.3
Rent of shelter [2]	263.698	265.074	265.035	2.9	0.5	0.0

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-		
	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
Transportation services	297.780	297.836	297.744	1.3	0.0	0.0
Other services	334.384	334.526	334.135	1.5	-0.1	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	215.418	215.936	215.587	0.7	0.1	-0.2
All items less food	224.928	225.541	225.153	1.2	0.1	-0.2
All items less shelter	218.688	218.953	218.594	0.3	0.0	-0.2
Commodities less food	147.803	148.192	148.362	-2.1	0.4	0.1
Nondurables	212.323	213.135	213.835	-0.9	0.7	0.3
Nondurables less food	188.515	189.914	190.836	-1.6	1.2	0.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	230.756	231.279	231.612	-1.6	0.4	0.1
Services less rent of shelter [2]	313.995	314.159	312.469	2.3	-0.5	-0.5
Services less medical care services	263.287	264.045	263.032	2.3	-0.1	-0.4
Energy	191.216	191.573	187.192	-2.9	-2.1	-2.3
All items less energy	233.458	234.021	234.145	1.4	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy	233.028	233.682	233.754	1.7	0.3	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	144.838	145.132	145.231	-0.9	0.3	0.1
Energy commodities	197.915	199.157	199.951	-7.5	1.0	0.4
Services less energy services	291.328	292.231	292.280	2.7	0.3	0.0

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-		
	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	221.405	221.759	221.422	0.7	0.0	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	358.061	358.634	358.088			
Food and beverages	240.039	240.002	240.522	-0.4	0.2	0.2
Food	239.592	239.543	240.041	-0.5	0.2	0.2
Food at home	226.865	226.614	227.013	-2.2	0.1	0.2
Food away from home	263.522	263.890	264.589	2.6	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	245.585	245.743	246.605	1.0	0.4	0.4
Housing	213.194	213.826	212.788	2.3	-0.2	-0.5
Shelter	245.692	246.723	246.847	2.8	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	256.212	256.848	257.429	2.8	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	242.886	243.480	243.870	2.8	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	242.884	243.480	243.868	2.8	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	223.637	223.468	215.568	2.3	-3.6	-3.5
Household energy	184.804	184.524	176.426	1.7	-4.5	-4.4
Energy services [1]	191.943	191.630	182.614	1.8	-4.9	-4.7
Electricity [1]	212.352	210.715	196.441	0.5	-7.5	-6.8
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	145.886	147.924	148.654	4.5	1.9	0.5
Household furnishings and operations	112.115	111.992	112.128	-1.8	0.0	0.1
Apparel	113.349	116.399	118.284	-2.4	4.4	1.6
Transportation	190.030	189.608	189.054	-2.9	-0.5	-0.3
Private transportation	186.723	186.252	185.725	-2.9	-0.5	-0.3
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.602	97.619	96.723	-2.0	-1.9	-0.9
New vehicles	141.365	141.496	141.593	-0.6	0.2	0.1
Used cars and trucks	146.249	143.773	141.168	-3.9	-3.5	-1.8
Motor fuel	199.157	200.563	200.987	-7.8	0.9	0.2
Gasoline (all types)	198.059	199.424	199.797	-7.8	0.9	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	192.266	193.623	193.780	-8.3	0.8	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	230.690	230.674	232.624	-6.2	0.8	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	220.507	222.217	223.462	-5.0	1.3	0.6
Medical Care	479.571	480.496	481.483	4.7	0.4	0.2
Medical care commodities	378.024	378.360	376.491	4.6	-0.4	-0.5
Medical care services	510.947	512.073	514.068	4.7	0.6	0.4
Professional services	410.364	410.145	409.604	3.9	-0.2	-0.1
Recreation [3]	114.845	114.723	114.319	0.7	-0.5	-0.4
Education and communication [3]	132.347	132.169	132.270	-0.2	-0.1	0.1
Other goods and services	456.055	457.557	457.734	2.3	0.4	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	221.405	221.759	221.422	0.7	0.0	-0.2
Commodities	178.183	178.374	178.440	-1.7	0.1	0.0
Commodities less food & beverages	148.224	148.499	148.383	-2.7	0.1	-0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	191.994	193.489	194.246	-2.2	1.2	0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	240.371	241.066	241.232	-2.3	0.4	0.1
Durables	106.834	106.210	105.474	-2.7	-1.3	-0.7
Services	272.495	273.031	272.257	2.5	-0.1	-0.3
Rent of shelter [2]	244.090	245.126	245.271	2.8	0.5	0.1
Transportation services	299.280	299.402	299.780	2.1	0.2	0.1
Other services	309.081	308.657	308.541	1.3	-0.2	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-		
	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	Aug. 2016	Sep. 2016
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	211.510	211.842	211.454	0.4	0.0	-0.2
All items less food	217.752	218.171	217.699	0.9	0.0	-0.2
All items less shelter	215.156	215.273	214.767	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Commodities less food	151.146	151.419	151.325	-2.6	0.1	-0.1
Nondurables	216.176	216.948	217.597	-1.2	0.7	0.3
Nondurables less food	194.723	196.152	196.914	-2.0	1.1	0.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	239.233	239.883	240.101	-2.0	0.4	0.1
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	278.164	278.117	276.431	2.3	-0.6	-0.6
Services less medical care services	256.748	257.246	256.309	2.3	-0.2	-0.4
Energy	190.692	191.195	187.081	-3.3	-1.9	-2.2
All items less energy	227.039	227.379	227.487	1.2	0.2	0.0
All items less food and energy	224.689	225.101	225.136	1.5	0.2	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.889	147.998	147.780	-1.3	-0.1	-0.1
Energy commodities	198.420	199.773	200.432	-7.8	1.0	0.3
Services less energy services	283.252	283.893	284.118	2.6	0.3	0.1

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.
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