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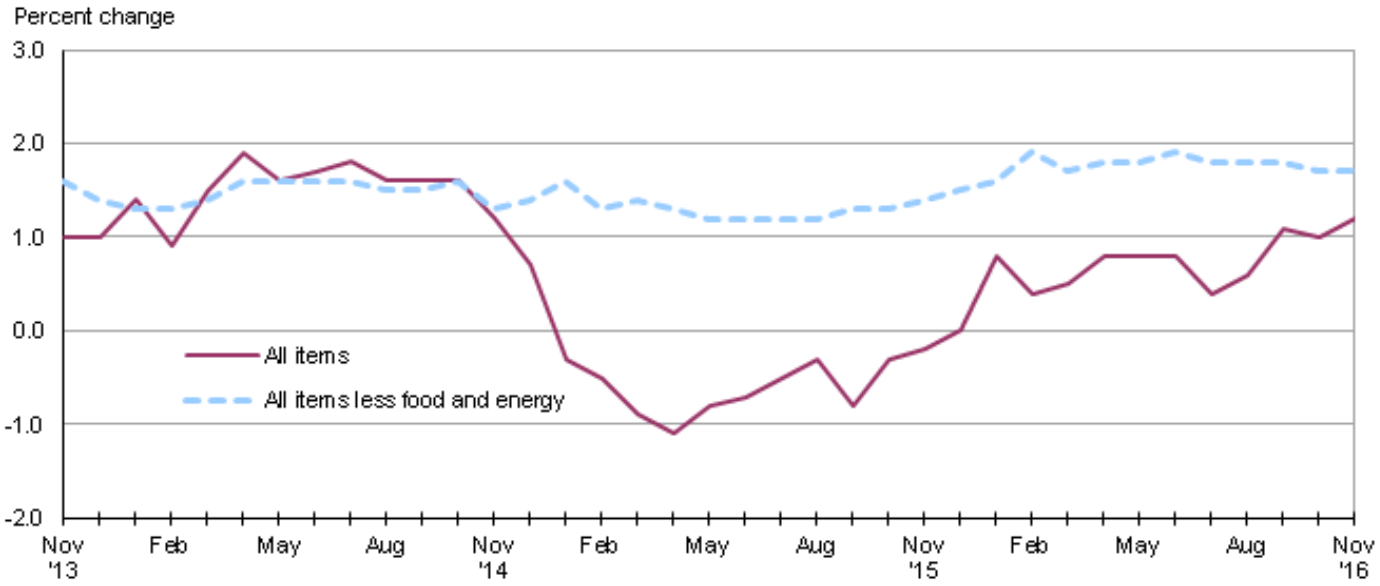
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – November 2016

Prices in the Midwest down 0.3 percent in November, but 1.2 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was down 0.3 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly decrease was largely attributable to a 6.0-percent drop in motor fuel prices. The broader energy index was 2.9 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 rose 1.2 percent from November 2015 to November 2016. (See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices decreased 0.2 percent, and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 1.0 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U advanced 1.7 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were down 0.4 percent in November. The index for food at home led the decline with a 0.7-percent decrease, while prices for food away from home were little changed over the month (0.1 percent).

From November 2015 to November 2016, the index for food decreased 0.2 percent. Prices for food at home registered their fourteenth consecutive over-the-year decrease, down 1.9 percent. Costs for food away from home rose 2.5 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index registered its second straight monthly decline, down 2.9 percent in November, and had the greatest downward impact on the all items index. The decrease was largely attributable to a 6.0-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Lower costs for electricity (-0.9 percent) also contributed to the monthly decline. In contrast, prices for utility (piped) gas service advanced 1.0 percent in November.

Energy costs decreased 1.0 percent from November 2015 to November 2016, largely due to a 4.9-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Costs for utility (piped) gas service and electricity, up 7.5 and 0.3 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 November due to offsetting movements. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included owners' equivalent rent of residences (0.3 percent) and medical care services (0.6 percent). In contrast, apparel (-1.9 percent), used cars and trucks (-1.5 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-0.7 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 November 2015 to November 2016. A 2.9-percent rise in shelter costs led the advance. Prices for medical care services had the next largest upward impact with a 4.8-percent increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 226.673 in November 2016. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $226.67 in November 2016.

CPI-W

In November, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 220.560, down 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 0.9 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	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	-0.3	1.2
December	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0		

The December 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

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. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	227.636	227.358	226.673	1.2	-0.4	-0.3
All items (December 1977=100)	370.376	369.924	368.810			
Food and beverages	240.247	240.694	239.741	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4
Food	239.803	240.215	239.266	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4
Food at home	226.091	226.418	224.801	-1.9	-0.6	-0.7
Food away from home	262.834	263.390	263.583	2.5	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	244.116	245.048	244.058	0.7	0.0	-0.4
Housing	218.816	217.842	217.903	2.4	-0.4	0.0
Shelter	257.954	257.898	258.337	2.9	0.1	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1)	256.240	256.812	257.599	2.8	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	261.237	261.657	262.476	2.9	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	261.227	261.647	262.463	2.9	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	222.299	214.514	214.152	3.0	-3.7	-0.2
Household energy	183.727	175.687	175.203	2.5	-4.6	-0.3
Energy services(1)	192.177	183.223	182.653	2.5	-5.0	-0.3
Electricity(1)	213.025	198.414	196.587	0.3	-7.7	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	146.215	147.027	148.536	7.5	1.6	1.0
Household furnishings and operations	113.880	114.233	113.379	-1.5	-0.4	-0.7
Apparel	118.904	120.841	118.575	-1.3	-0.3	-1.9
Transportation	192.363	192.021	189.630	-1.6	-1.4	-1.2
Private transportation	186.994	186.761	184.199	-1.4	-1.5	-1.4
New and used motor vehicles(3)	97.673	97.075	96.534	-1.7	-1.2	-0.6
New vehicles	138.399	138.623	138.778	-0.5	0.3	0.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4)	97.819	97.983	98.149	-0.6	0.3	0.2
New cars(4)	134.235	134.836	135.129	-0.4	0.7	0.2
Used cars and trucks	143.225	140.615	138.451	-3.5	-3.3	-1.5
Motor fuel	200.085	200.608	188.560	-4.9	-5.8	-6.0
Gasoline (all types)	199.049	199.519	187.382	-4.9	-5.9	-6.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	193.392	193.667	181.479	-5.4	-6.2	-6.3
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	230.799	232.708	219.491	-3.4	-4.9	-5.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	222.432	223.743	213.638	-1.5	-4.0	-4.5
Medical Care	474.779	476.005	477.271	4.6	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities	385.764	384.715	381.666	3.9	-1.1	-0.8
Medical care services	504.595	506.627	509.428	4.8	1.0	0.6
Professional services	408.037	407.456	413.224	5.1	1.3	1.4
Recreation(3)	119.023	118.379	118.505	1.4	-0.4	0.1
Education and communication(3)	140.582	140.679	140.313	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3
Other goods and services	410.438	410.481	410.145	1.8	-0.1	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	227.636	227.358	226.673	1.2	-0.4	-0.3
Commodities	176.146	176.386	174.471	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1
Commodities less food & beverages	145.084	145.235	142.994	-1.8	-1.4	-1.5
Nondurables less food & beverages	186.888	187.811	183.686	-1.1	-1.7	-2.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	231.527	231.805	226.466	-1.1	-2.2	-2.3
Durables	104.189	103.756	103.066	-2.3	-1.1	-0.7
Services	280.733	279.926	280.495	2.7	-0.1	0.2
Rent of shelter(2)	265.074	265.035	265.471	2.9	0.1	0.2
Transportation services	297.836	297.744	300.125	1.3	0.8	0.8

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. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Other services	334.526	334.135	334.004	1.5	-0.2	0.0
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	215.936	215.587	214.809	0.8	-0.5	-0.4
All items less food	225.541	225.153	224.512	1.4	-0.5	-0.3
All items less shelter	218.953	218.594	217.503	0.5	-0.7	-0.5
Commodities less food	148.192	148.362	146.145	-1.7	-1.4	-1.5
Nondurables	213.135	213.835	211.204	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2
Nondurables less food	189.914	190.836	186.888	-1.0	-1.6	-2.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	231.279	231.612	226.684	-0.9	-2.0	-2.1
Services less rent of shelter(2)	314.159	312.469	313.216	2.4	-0.3	0.2
Services less medical care services	264.045	263.032	263.438	2.4	-0.2	0.2
Energy	191.573	187.192	181.718	-1.0	-5.1	-2.9
All items less energy	234.021	234.145	233.924	1.4	0.0	-0.1
All items less food and energy	233.682	233.754	233.665	1.7	0.0	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	145.132	145.231	144.090	-1.0	-0.7	-0.8
Energy commodities	199.157	199.951	188.488	-4.7	-5.4	-5.7
Services less energy services	292.231	292.280	292.974	2.7	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 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. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	221.759	221.422	220.560	0.9	-0.5	-0.4
All items (December 1977=100)	358.634	358.088	356.695			
Food and beverages	240.002	240.522	239.342	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5
Food	239.543	240.041	238.828	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5
Food at home	226.614	227.013	225.150	-2.1	-0.6	-0.8
Food away from home	263.890	264.589	264.729	2.5	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	245.743	246.605	245.971	1.1	0.1	-0.3
Housing	213.826	212.788	212.953	2.4	-0.4	0.1
Shelter	246.723	246.847	247.415	2.8	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1)	256.848	257.429	258.260	2.8	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	243.480	243.870	244.640	2.9	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	243.480	243.868	244.636	2.9	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	223.468	215.568	215.161	2.9	-3.7	-0.2
Household energy	184.524	176.426	175.895	2.5	-4.7	-0.3
Energy services(1)	191.630	182.614	181.961	2.5	-5.0	-0.4
Electricity(1)	210.715	196.441	194.762	0.2	-7.6	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	147.924	148.654	149.843	7.9	1.3	0.8
Household furnishings and operations	111.992	112.128	111.257	-1.9	-0.7	-0.8
Apparel	116.399	118.284	116.462	-1.9	0.1	-1.5
Transportation	189.608	189.054	185.941	-2.0	-1.9	-1.6
Private transportation	186.252	185.725	182.510	-1.9	-2.0	-1.7
New and used motor vehicles(3)	97.619	96.723	95.859	-2.2	-1.8	-0.9
New vehicles	141.496	141.593	141.628	-0.8	0.1	0.0
Used cars and trucks	143.773	141.168	139.023	-3.6	-3.3	-1.5
Motor fuel	200.563	200.987	188.914	-5.0	-5.8	-6.0
Gasoline (all types)	199.424	199.797	187.655	-4.9	-5.9	-6.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	193.623	193.780	181.609	-5.5	-6.2	-6.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	230.674	232.624	219.398	-3.4	-4.9	-5.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	222.217	223.462	213.395	-1.5	-4.0	-4.5
Medical Care	480.496	481.483	482.770	4.6	0.5	0.3
Medical care commodities	378.360	376.491	373.183	3.3	-1.4	-0.9
Medical care services	512.073	514.068	516.982	4.9	1.0	0.6
Professional services	410.145	409.604	415.777	5.4	1.4	1.5
Recreation(3)	114.723	114.319	114.372	1.1	-0.3	0.0
Education and communication(3)	132.169	132.270	131.861	-0.6	-0.2	-0.3
Other goods and services	457.557	457.734	457.311	2.0	-0.1	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	221.759	221.422	220.560	0.9	-0.5	-0.4
Commodities	178.374	178.440	176.184	-1.4	-1.2	-1.3
Commodities less food & beverages	148.499	148.383	145.774	-2.2	-1.8	-1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	193.489	194.246	189.554	-1.5	-2.0	-2.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	241.066	241.232	234.844	-1.4	-2.6	-2.6
Durables	106.210	105.474	104.539	-2.7	-1.6	-0.9
Services	273.031	272.257	272.854	2.6	-0.1	0.2
Rent of shelter(2)	245.126	245.271	245.826	2.9	0.3	0.2
Transportation services	299.402	299.780	302.212	1.9	0.9	0.8
Other services	308.657	308.541	308.397	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. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Sep. 2016	Oct. 2016
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	211.842	211.454	210.510	0.6	-0.6	-0.4
All items less food	218.171	217.699	216.897	1.1	-0.6	-0.4
All items less shelter	215.273	214.767	213.386	0.1	-0.9	-0.6
Commodities less food	151.419	151.325	148.747	-2.1	-1.8	-1.7
Nondurables	216.948	217.597	214.553	-0.9	-1.1	-1.4
Nondurables less food	196.152	196.914	192.422	-1.3	-1.9	-2.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	239.883	240.101	234.187	-1.2	-2.4	-2.5
Services less rent of shelter(2)	278.117	276.431	277.018	2.4	-0.4	0.2
Services less medical care services	257.246	256.309	256.763	2.4	-0.2	0.2
Energy	191.195	187.081	181.202	-1.3	-5.2	-3.1
All items less energy	227.379	227.487	227.214	1.2	-0.1	-0.1
All items less food and energy	225.101	225.136	225.038	1.5	0.0	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.998	147.780	146.549	-1.4	-1.0	-0.8
Energy commodities	199.773	200.432	188.981	-4.9	-5.4	-5.7
Services less energy services	283.893	284.118	284.869	2.6	0.3	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.
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(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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