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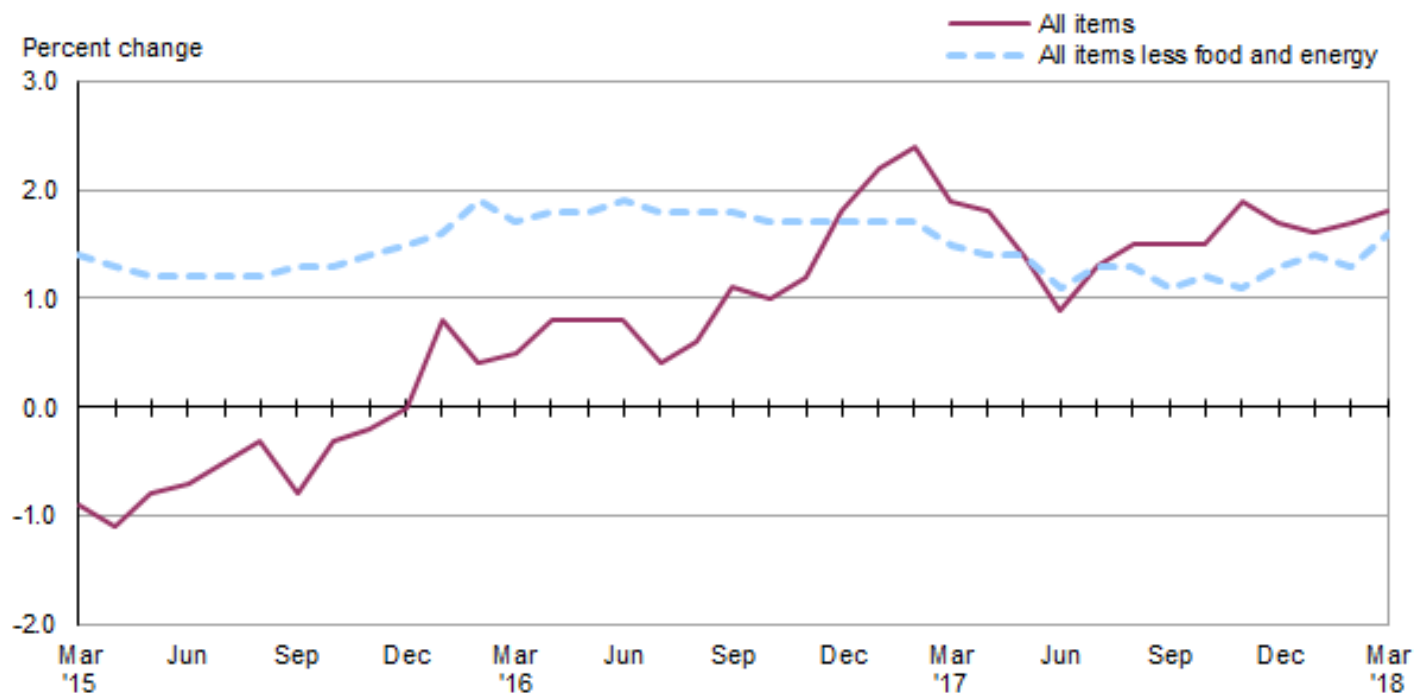
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Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – March 2018

Prices in the Midwest up 0.2 percent in March and 1.8 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.2 percent in March, the same rate of increase as in the prior month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. A broad-based rise in prices for all items less food and energy (0.3 percent) led the increase. Energy costs were down 0.6 percent for the second month in a row. Prices for food were little changed, down 0.1 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, March 2015–March 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The CPI-U for the Midwest advanced 1.8 percent from March 2017 to March 2018. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, rose 5.3 percent and food prices increased 0.9 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U was up 1.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were little changed (-0.1 percent) in March due to offsetting movements within the index. Costs for food at home were down 0.4 percent over the month with lower prices for fruits and vegetables contributing to the decrease. Prices for food away from home were up 0.2 percent.

From March 2017 to March 2018, the index for food was 0.9 percent higher led by a 2.2-percent increase in prices for food away from home. Prices for food at home were unchanged over the year.

Energy

The energy index was down 0.6 percent in March after turning down by the same magnitude in February. Lower costs for utility (piped) gas service led the decline with a decrease of 3.9 percent in March. Electricity prices also declined over the month, down 0.7 percent. Though lower gasoline prices led the February decline in the energy index, they increased 0.6 percent in March.

Energy costs rose 5.3 percent from March 2017 to March 2018 led by a 10.1-percent increase in gasoline prices. Costs for electricity rose 0.5 percent over the year, but prices for utility (piped) gas service were virtually unchanged (-0.1 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest was up 0.3 percent in March, the same as in the prior month. Higher costs for shelter (0.4 percent) had the largest upward impact on the index. Prices for used cars and trucks (1.5 percent) and other goods and services (1.0 percent) were also among those that contributed to the rise.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.6 percent from March 2017 to March 2018. Higher costs for shelter (3.1 percent) led the over-the-year increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 232.931 in March 2018. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$232.93 in March 2018.

CPI-W

In March, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 227.007. The CPI-W increased 0.2 percent in March and rose 1.9 percent over the year.

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

Month	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	1.4	-0.6	-0.3	0.3	0.8	0.7	2.2	0.6	1.6
February.....	0.6	0.9	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	2.4	0.2	1.7
March.....	0.9	1.5	0.6	-0.9	0.6	0.5	0.1	1.9	0.2	1.8
April.....	0.3	1.9	0.1	-1.1	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.8		
May.....	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.4		
June.....	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.9		
July.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.4	0.0	1.3		
August.....	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.5		
September.....	0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.5		
October.....	-0.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.5		
November.....	-0.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	1.2	0.2	1.9		

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

Month	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
December.....	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0	0.1	1.8	-0.2	1.7		

The April 2018 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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/pdf/homch17.pdf.

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 cities; 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 Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes			Percent change from		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
All items.....	232.028	232.512	232.931	1.8	0.4	0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	377.523	378.309	378.992			
Food and beverages	243.305	243.603	243.262	1.0	0.0	-0.1
Food	242.601	242.865	242.510	0.9	0.0	-0.1
Food at home	226.656	226.810	225.918	0.0	-0.3	-0.4
Cereals and bakery products	258.660	258.523	259.331		0.3	0.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	247.204	246.250	246.510		-0.3	0.1
Dairy and related products	199.915	197.690	197.449		-1.2	-0.1
Fruits and vegetables	271.572	270.372	265.639		-2.2	-1.8
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	159.503	160.943	160.072		0.4	-0.5
Other food at home	196.058	197.900	197.301		0.6	-0.3
Food away from home.....	269.502	269.935	270.384	2.2	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	250.865	251.636	251.480	2.4	0.2	-0.1
Housing	223.996	224.834	225.275	2.5	0.6	0.2
Shelter	266.364	267.342	268.376	3.1	0.8	0.4
Rent of primary residence(1).....	267.255	267.484	268.124	3.3	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2).....	271.067	271.579	272.471	3.1	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	271.027	271.543	272.425	3.0	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	220.692	222.393	219.534	1.1	-0.5	-1.3
Household energy	180.174	181.728	178.513	0.6	-0.9	-1.8
Energy services(1)	186.508	188.250	184.940	0.3	-0.8	-1.8
Electricity(1).....	201.185	200.577	199.173	0.5	-1.0	-0.7
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	150.985	156.381	150.229	-0.1	-0.5	-3.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	113.564	113.552	114.176	-0.2	0.5	0.5
Apparel.....	116.481	119.680	120.121	1.0	3.1	0.4
Transportation	200.064	199.926	201.054	3.0	0.5	0.6
Private transportation	195.032	194.848	195.963	3.4	0.5	0.6
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	95.980	96.185	96.982	-0.3	1.0	0.8
New vehicles	137.200	136.898	136.939	-2.1	-0.2	0.0
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	96.915	96.702	96.718	-2.1	-0.2	0.0
New cars(4).....	133.447	132.825	132.986	-2.6	-0.3	0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	136.232	137.587	139.658	-0.1	2.5	1.5
Motor fuel	231.077	226.835	228.003	10.2	-1.3	0.5
Gasoline (all types).....	229.620	225.196	226.458	10.1	-1.4	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	223.556	219.143	220.390	10.3	-1.4	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	264.494	259.166	260.756	8.0	-1.4	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	252.114	248.450	249.876	8.7	-0.9	0.6
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	725.538	738.214	738.086		1.7	0.0
Medical care	481.011	481.849	482.275	0.6	0.3	0.1
Medical care commodities.....	388.506	390.831	392.852	0.8	1.1	0.5
Medical care services.....	511.988	512.320	512.205	0.6	0.0	0.0
Professional services	417.348	417.223	417.257	0.7	0.0	0.0
Recreation(3).....	122.318	122.405	122.187	0.6	-0.1	-0.2
Education and communication(3).....	137.948	137.778	137.461	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,183.109	1,183.479	1,179.298		-0.3	-0.4

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 Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes			Percent change from		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
Other goods and services	418.840	414.035	418.270	1.4	-0.1	1.0
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	178.028	178.223	178.676	1.1	0.4	0.3
Commodities less food and beverages	146.405	146.553	147.284	1.1	0.6	0.5
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	193.864	194.097	194.970	3.2	0.6	0.4
Durables	101.307	101.384	101.954	-1.6	0.6	0.6
Services.....	287.679	288.465	288.847	2.2	0.4	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	221.948	222.264	222.475	1.2	0.2	0.1
All items less medical care	220.242	220.709	221.129	1.9	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food.....	149.657	149.821	150.532	1.2	0.6	0.5
Nondurables	218.312	218.578	218.889	2.0	0.3	0.1
Nondurables less food.....	196.869	197.132	197.946	3.1	0.5	0.4
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	319.576	320.163	319.822	1.4	0.1	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	270.949	271.769	272.188	2.5	0.5	0.2
Energy	203.251	202.097	200.936	5.3	-1.1	-0.6
All items less energy	237.736	238.392	238.978	1.5	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	237.575	238.302	239.056	1.6	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) Indexes 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.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.