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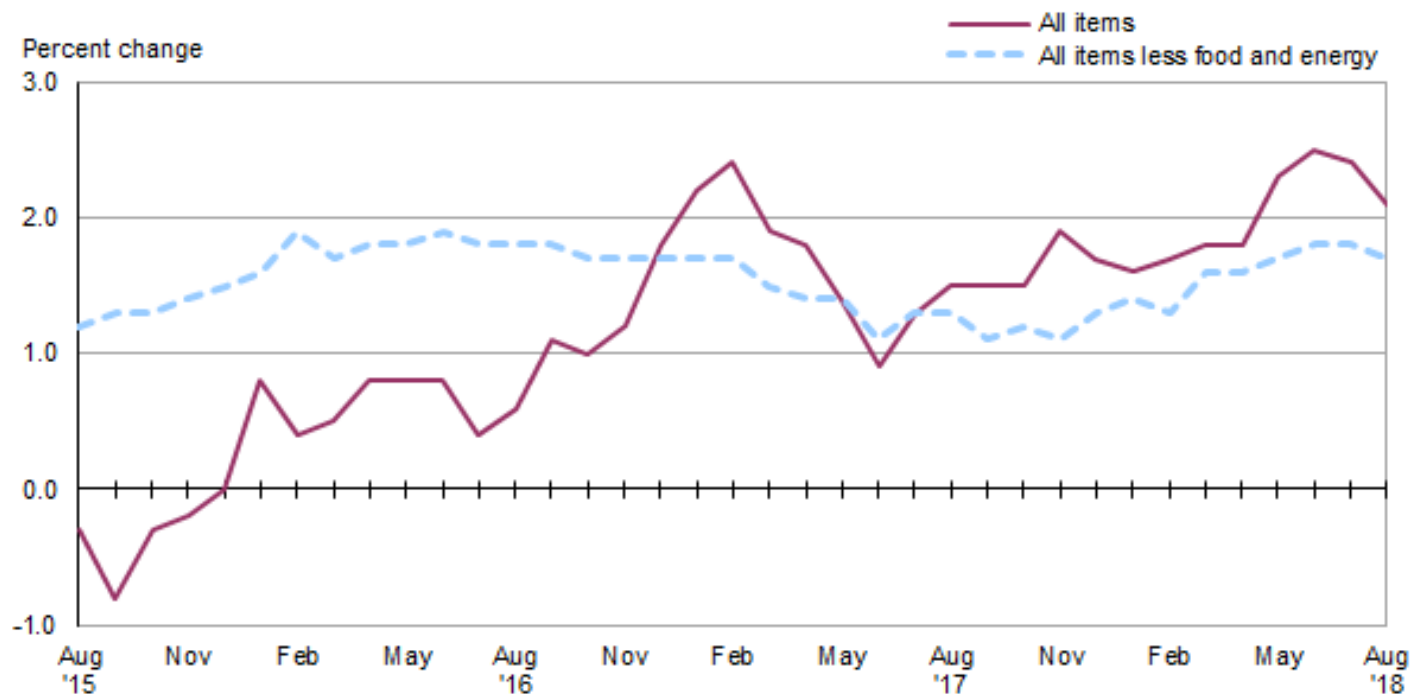
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Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – August 2018

Prices in the Midwest unchanged in August and 2.1 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was unchanged for the second month in a row, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Movement within the index was mixed in August, with lower prices for recreation (-1.0 percent) and higher prices for shelter (0.2 percent) among the categories with the most impact on the monthly index. Food prices were down 0.3 percent for the month and energy prices were little changed, down a slight 0.1 percent. The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in August. (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, August 2015–August 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The CPI-U for the Midwest advanced 2.1 percent from August 2017 to August 2018. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, rose 8.1 percent and food prices increased 0.7 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U was up 1.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were 0.3 percent lower in August after registering little change (0.1 percent) in July. The decline was led by a decrease of 0.5 percent in prices for food at home. Lower prices for food away from home (-0.2 percent) also contributed to the monthly decline.

From August 2017 to August 2018, the index for food rose 0.7 percent. Prices for food away from home were up 2.2 percent and were responsible for the increase. Prices for food at home were 0.3 percent lower over the year.

Energy

The energy index was little changed (-0.1 percent) in August after turning down 0.7 percent in July. Lower prices for gasoline (-0.7 percent) had the largest impact on the energy index in August. Gasoline prices declined 0.8 percent in the prior month. Prices for utility (piped) gas service (1.6 percent) and electricity (0.3 percent) turned up in August after registering declines of 1.1 and 0.6 percent, respectively, in July.

Energy costs advanced 8.1 percent from August 2017 to August 2018 due largely to an increase of 19.4 percent in prices for gasoline. Costs for electricity and utility (piped) gas service were lower than in August 2017, decreasing 2.9 and 2.8 percent, respectively, over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest was unchanged for the third consecutive month. Among the expenditure categories registering higher costs were shelter (0.2 percent), education and communication (0.3 percent) and medical care (0.2 percent). Prices for recreation (-1.0 percent) were among those that declined in August.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.7 percent from August 2017 to August 2018. Higher costs for shelter (3.3 percent) led the over-the-year increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 235.276 in August 2018. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$235.28 in August 2018.

CPI-W

In August, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 229.827. The CPI-W was unchanged in August and rose 2.4 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	0.4	1.8
May.....	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3
June.....	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.2	2.5
July.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.4
August.....	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.5	0.0	2.1
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		

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
November.....	-0.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	1.2	0.2	1.9		
December.....	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0	0.1	1.8	-0.2	1.7		

The September 2018 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, October 11, 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		
	Jun. 2018	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Aug. 2017	Jun. 2018	Jul. 2018
All items.....	235.455	235.346	235.276	2.1	-0.1	0.0
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	383.099	382.922	382.808			
Food and beverages	244.359	244.433	243.656	0.7	-0.3	-0.3
Food	243.803	243.935	243.119	0.7	-0.3	-0.3
Food at home	226.963	226.957	225.866	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5
Cereals and bakery products	261.008	261.962	258.844		-0.8	-1.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	248.070	248.927	248.286		0.1	-0.3
Dairy and related products	197.120	197.357	194.780		-1.2	-1.3
Fruits and vegetables	269.644	267.851	267.998		-0.6	0.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	160.312	159.918	158.340		-1.2	-1.0
Other food at home	197.169	197.201	196.944		-0.1	-0.1
Food away from home.....	272.066	272.407	271.995	2.2	0.0	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages	249.895	249.176	248.942	0.9	-0.4	-0.1
Housing	227.628	227.948	228.447	2.5	0.4	0.2
Shelter	270.494	271.218	271.663	3.3	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence	269.415	270.201	271.325	3.2	0.7	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)....	274.417	275.383	276.423	3.5	0.7	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)	274.385	275.350	276.390	3.5	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	227.310	226.111	227.656	-1.2	0.2	0.7
Household energy	186.240	184.866	186.123	-2.3	-0.1	0.7
Energy services.....	193.401	191.937	193.216	-2.9	-0.1	0.7
Electricity	214.621	213.319	213.935	-2.9	-0.3	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service	146.947	145.318	147.577	-2.8	0.4	1.6
Household furnishings and operations	114.238	114.276	114.361	1.2	0.1	0.1
Apparel.....	117.018	113.443	113.081	-3.7	-3.4	-0.3
Transportation	207.870	207.654	207.200	6.3	-0.3	-0.2
Private transportation	202.717	202.945	202.643	6.7	0.0	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	97.286	97.944	98.050	2.0	0.8	0.1
New vehicles	137.305	137.441	137.207	0.1	-0.1	-0.2
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	97.061	97.143	96.974	0.2	-0.1	-0.2
New cars(3).....	134.005	134.235	133.743	0.5	-0.2	-0.4
Used cars and trucks.....	138.199	139.892	140.213	0.9	1.5	0.2
Motor fuel	258.423	256.472	254.719	19.4	-1.4	-0.7
Gasoline (all types).....	256.959	255.024	253.288	19.4	-1.4	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	250.571	248.572	246.845	19.7	-1.5	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	294.708	294.158	292.110	17.5	-0.9	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	278.008	276.909	275.281	16.8	-1.0	-0.6
Motor vehicle insurance(5)	730.536	731.542	728.073		-0.3	-0.5
Medical care	484.324	483.967	484.957	0.4	0.1	0.2
Medical care commodities.....	395.680	392.814	393.777	-1.8	-0.5	0.2
Medical care services.....	513.988	514.483	515.481	1.0	0.3	0.2
Professional services	418.359	417.317	417.894	0.6	-0.1	0.1
Recreation(2).....	122.230	121.967	120.786	-1.9	-1.2	-1.0
Education and communication(2).....	137.613	137.980	138.398	1.4	0.6	0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,183.149	1,185.074	1,193.112		0.8	0.7
Other goods and services	425.311	426.409	426.414	2.4	0.3	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 Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes			Percent change from		
	Jun. 2018	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Aug. 2017	Jun. 2018	Jul. 2018
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	180.783	180.277	179.912	1.7	-0.5	-0.2
Commodities less food and beverages	149.681	148.979	148.783	2.3	-0.6	-0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	200.882	199.075	198.715	4.5	-1.1	-0.2
Durables	101.719	101.841	101.774	-0.5	0.1	-0.1
Services	291.796	292.108	292.350	2.3	0.2	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter	225.159	224.760	224.512	1.6	-0.3	-0.1
All items less medical care	223.676	223.579	223.458	2.3	-0.1	-0.1
Commodities less food	152.841	152.135	151.937	2.3	-0.6	-0.1
Nondurables	222.591	221.651	221.094	2.5	-0.7	-0.3
Nondurables less food	203.434	201.690	201.336	4.2	-1.0	-0.2
Services less rent of shelter ⁽¹⁾	323.744	323.640	323.686	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services less medical care services	275.225	275.523	275.710	2.5	0.2	0.1
Energy	219.215	217.576	217.425	8.1	-0.8	-0.1
All items less energy	239.928	239.973	239.911	1.6	0.0	0.0
All items less food and energy	239.948	239.978	240.048	1.7	0.0	0.0

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.