



For Release: Thursday, October 11, 2018

18-1665-KAN

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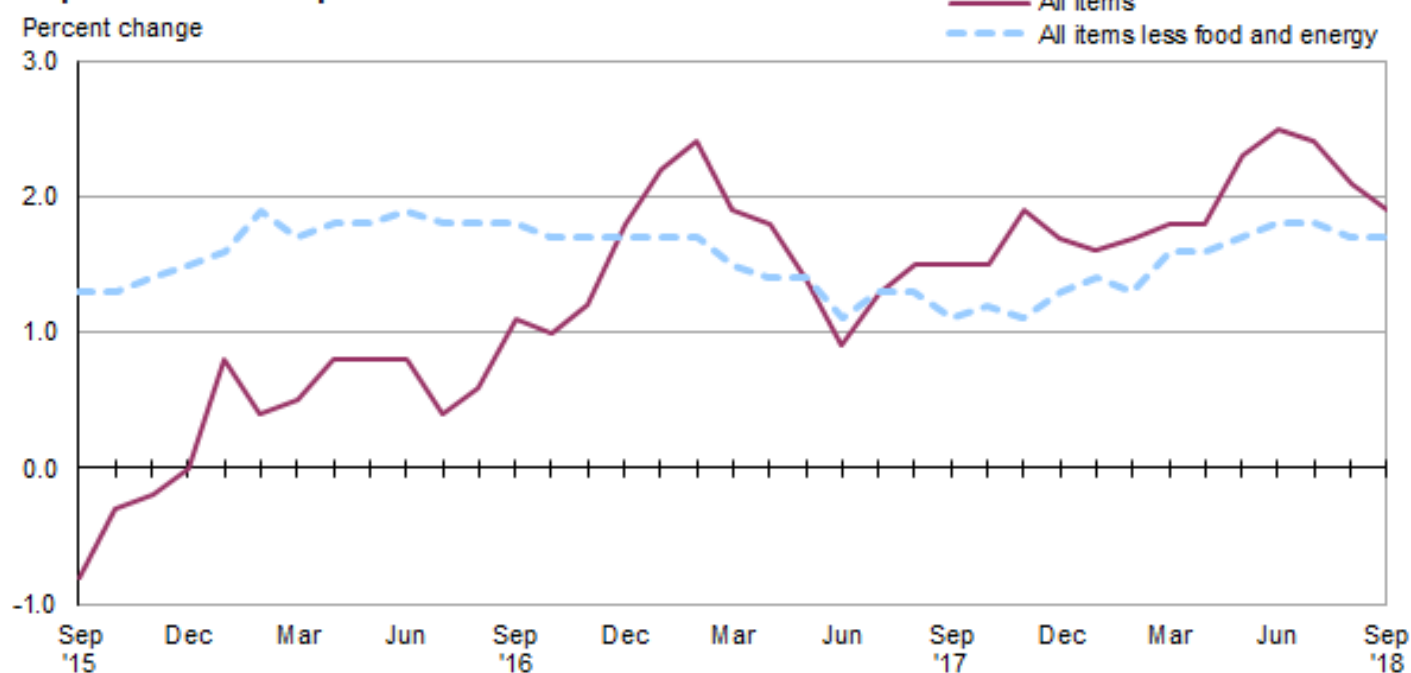
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Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – September 2018

Prices in the Midwest up 0.1 percent in September and 1.9 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest inched up 0.1 percent after recording no change in each of the prior two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Higher prices for apparel (5.0 percent) had the largest upward impact on the monthly index. Lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-2.1 percent) provided the largest offsetting effect. Food prices were up 0.3 percent for the month and energy prices were unchanged. The index for all items less food and energy was little changed, up 0.1 percent, in September. (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, September 2015–September 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The CPI-U for the Midwest advanced 1.9 percent from September 2017 to September 2018. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, rose 5.9 percent and food prices increased 0.8 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 higher in September after registering a 0.3 percent decline in the prior month. Prices for food away from home were up 0.3 percent and prices for food at home rose 0.2 percent.

From September 2017 to September 2018, the index for food rose 0.8 percent. Prices for food away from home were up 2.2 percent and were responsible for the increase. Prices for food at home were 0.2 percent lower over the year.

Energy

The energy index was unchanged in September after registering little change (-0.1 percent) in August and declining 0.7 percent in July. Lower prices for electricity (-1.1 percent) were offset by other components of the index in September; prices for electricity rose 0.3 percent in the prior month. Utility piped gas service costs were up 0.3 percent following a 1.6-percent increase in August. Gasoline prices turned up 0.5 percent in September after declining 0.7 percent in the prior month.

Energy costs advanced 5.9 percent from September 2017 to September 2018 due largely to an increase of 13.6 percent in prices for gasoline. Costs for electricity and utility (piped) gas service were lower than in September 2017, decreasing 2.8 and 1.8 percent, respectively, over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest was little changed (0.1 percent) after remaining unchanged for three consecutive months. Among the expenditure categories registering higher costs were apparel (5.0 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent), while prices for new and used motor vehicles (-2.1 percent) were among those that declined over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.7 percent from September 2017 to September 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 235.524 in September 2018. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$235.52 in September 2018.

CPI-W

In September, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 229.998. The CPI-W inched up 0.1 percent in September and rose 2.2 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

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
September.....	0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.5	0.1	1.9
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		
December.....	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0	0.1	1.8	-0.2	1.7		

The October 2018 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 14, 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		
	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018
All items	235.346	235.276	235.524	1.9	0.1	0.1
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	382.922	382.808	383.210			
Food and beverages	244.433	243.656	244.409	0.8	0.0	0.3
Food	243.935	243.119	243.762	0.8	-0.1	0.3
Food at home	226.957	225.866	226.373	-0.2	-0.3	0.2
Cereals and bakery products	261.962	258.844	258.904		-1.2	0.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	248.927	248.286	245.319		-1.4	-1.2
Dairy and related products	197.357	194.780	195.649		-0.9	0.4
Fruits and vegetables	267.851	267.998	267.502		-0.1	-0.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	159.918	158.340	162.289		1.5	2.5
Other food at home	197.201	196.944	198.371		0.6	0.7
Food away from home.....	272.407	271.995	272.852	2.2	0.2	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	249.176	248.942	251.179	1.4	0.8	0.9
Housing	227.948	228.447	228.659	2.3	0.3	0.1
Shelter	271.218	271.663	272.185	3.1	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	270.201	271.325	271.865	3.1	0.6	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2).....	275.383	276.423	276.819	3.3	0.5	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	275.350	276.390	276.786	3.3	0.5	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	226.111	227.656	226.781	-0.9	0.3	-0.4
Household energy	184.866	186.123	185.179	-2.0	0.2	-0.5
Energy services(1)	191.937	193.216	191.940	-2.5	0.0	-0.7
Electricity(1).....	213.319	213.935	211.597	-2.8	-0.8	-1.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	145.318	147.577	148.086	-1.8	1.9	0.3
Household furnishings and operations	114.276	114.361	114.309	1.1	0.0	0.0
Apparel	113.443	113.081	118.790	-1.4	4.7	5.0
Transportation	207.654	207.200	205.689	4.6	-0.9	-0.7
Private transportation	202.945	202.643	201.242	4.9	-0.8	-0.7
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	97.944	98.050	95.946	0.7	-2.0	-2.1
New vehicles	137.441	137.207	135.734	-0.4	-1.2	-1.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	97.143	96.974	95.960	-0.3	-1.2	-1.0
New cars(4).....	134.235	133.743	132.796	0.2	-1.1	-0.7
Used cars and trucks.....	139.892	140.213	133.797	-2.1	-4.4	-4.6
Motor fuel	256.472	254.719	256.001	13.7	-0.2	0.5
Gasoline (all types).....	255.024	253.288	254.525	13.6	-0.2	0.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	248.572	246.845	248.063	13.8	-0.2	0.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	294.158	292.110	292.947	13.2	-0.4	0.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	276.909	275.281	276.808	12.1	0.0	0.6
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	731.542	728.073	731.895		0.0	0.5
Medical care	483.967	484.957	485.951	1.5	0.4	0.2
Medical care commodities.....	392.814	393.777	394.593	1.6	0.5	0.2
Medical care services.....	514.483	515.481	516.535	1.4	0.4	0.2
Professional services	417.317	417.894	418.012	0.6	0.2	0.0
Recreation(3).....	121.967	120.786	120.600	-1.6	-1.1	-0.2
Education and communication(3).....	137.980	138.398	138.124	0.7	0.1	-0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,185.074	1,193.112	1,190.313		0.4	-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 Region, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes			Percent change from		
	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018	Sep. 2018	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	Aug. 2018
Other goods and services	426.409	426.414	426.977	2.6	0.1	0.1
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	180.277	179.912	180.149	1.4	-0.1	0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	148.979	148.783	148.818	1.6	-0.1	0.0
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	199.075	198.715	200.973	3.8	1.0	1.1
Durables	101.841	101.774	100.267	-1.1	-1.5	-1.5
Services.....	292.108	292.350	292.607	2.3	0.2	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	224.760	224.512	224.666	1.5	0.0	0.1
All items less medical care	223.579	223.458	223.670	2.0	0.0	0.1
Commodities less food.....	152.135	151.937	152.027	1.6	-0.1	0.1
Nondurables	221.651	221.094	222.664	2.3	0.5	0.7
Nondurables less food.....	201.690	201.336	203.591	3.6	0.9	1.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	323.640	323.686	323.653	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services less medical care services.....	275.523	275.710	275.906	2.4	0.1	0.1
Energy	217.576	217.425	217.523	5.9	0.0	0.0
All items less energy	239.973	239.911	240.176	1.6	0.1	0.1
All items less food and energy	239.978	240.048	240.248	1.7	0.1	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) 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.