



For Release: Wednesday, December 12, 2018

18-1964-KAN

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.

Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains

Media contact: (816) 285-7000

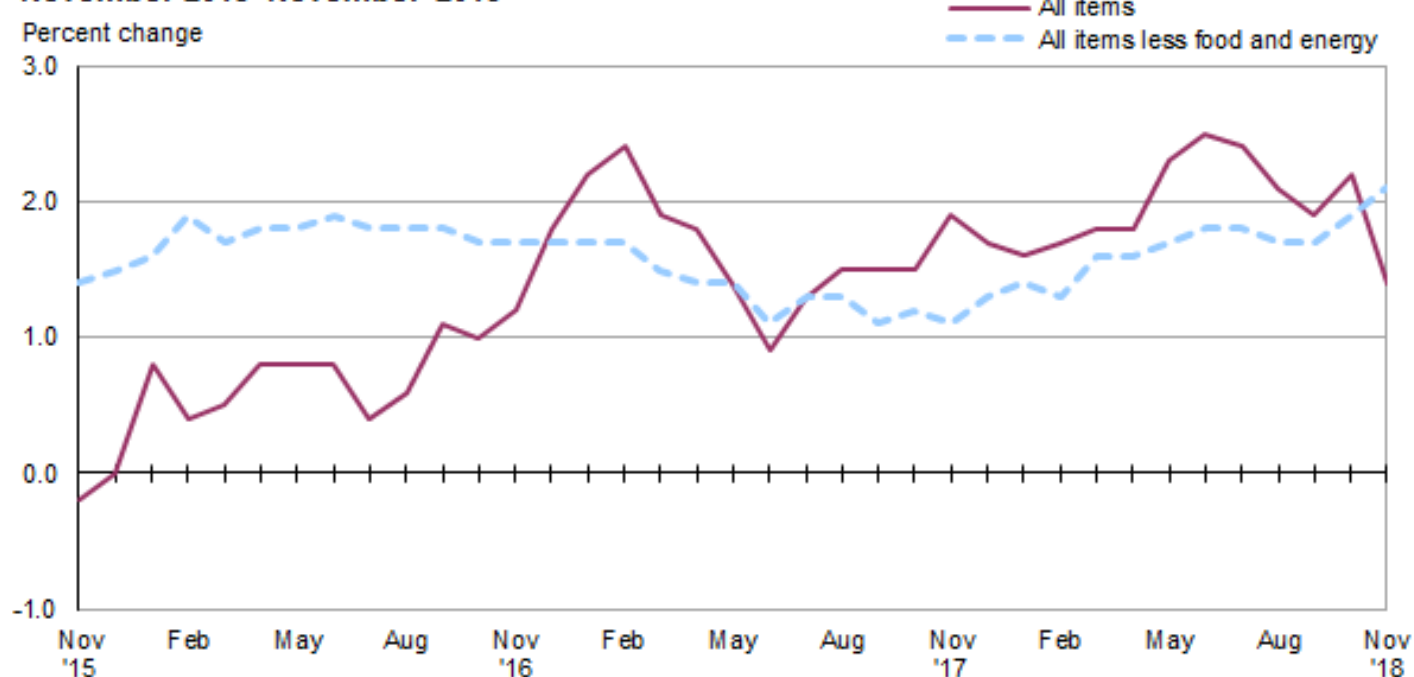
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – November 2018

Prices in the Midwest down 0.6 percent in November and 1.4 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest declined 0.6 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was the first monthly decrease recorded in 2018 and was led by a 10.5-percent drop in prices for gasoline. Overall, energy costs were down 7.0 percent for the month. Prices for food were 0.3 percent lower. The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in November. (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 1.4 percent from November 2017 to November 2018. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 3.6 percent and food prices increased 0.5 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U was up 2.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest declined 0.3 percent in November led by lower prices for food at home (-0.7 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent following gains of 0.3 percent in each of the prior two months.

From November 2017 to November 2018, the index for food rose 0.5 percent. Prices for food away from home were up 2.4 percent and were responsible for the increase. Prices for food at home were 0.9 percent lower over the year.

Energy

The energy index was down 7.0 percent in November after a decrease of 2.4 percent in the prior month. November's decline was the largest since January 2015. A 10.5-percent drop in prices for gasoline led the index, but lower prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service also contributed to the decline in energy costs. Electricity prices were down 2.4 percent following a decrease of 4.8 percent in the prior month. Utility (piped) gas service costs decreased 3.8 percent over the month after rising 0.5 percent in October.

Energy costs turned down 3.6 percent from November 2017 to November 2018 with all three major components contributing to the decrease. Prices for gasoline declined 4.6 percent, electricity prices were down 2.8 percent and costs for utility (piped) gas service were 5.0 percent lower than in November 2017.

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 within the index. Among the expenditure categories registering higher costs were new and used motor vehicles (0.8 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent), while prices for apparel (-3.1 percent) and education and communication (-0.6 percent) were among those that declined over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 2.1 percent from November 2017 to November 2018. Higher costs for shelter (3.5 percent) contributed to the increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 234.292 in November 2018. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$234.29 in November 2018.

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	0.1	1.9
October.....	-0.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.5	0.1	2.2
November.....	-0.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	1.2	0.2	1.9	-0.6	1.4
December.....	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0	0.1	1.8	-0.2	1.7		

CPI-W

In November, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 228.309. The CPI-W declined 0.8 percent in November and rose 1.4 percent over the year.

The December 2018 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Friday, January 11, 2019.

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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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		
	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Nov. 2018	Nov. 2017	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018
All items	235.524	235.680	234.292	1.4	-0.5	-0.6
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	383.210	383.464	381.206			
Food and beverages	244.409	244.608	244.088	0.6	-0.1	-0.2
Food	243.762	243.882	243.269	0.5	-0.2	-0.3
Food at home	226.373	226.052	224.384	-0.9	-0.9	-0.7
Cereals and bakery products	258.904	261.222	259.140		0.1	-0.8
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	245.319	244.750	244.133		-0.5	-0.3
Dairy and related products	195.649	193.957	189.794		-3.0	-2.1
Fruits and vegetables	267.502	269.882	263.345		-1.6	-2.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	162.289	161.784	160.307		-1.2	-0.9
Other food at home	198.371	196.590	197.767		-0.3	0.6
Food away from home.....	272.852	273.635	274.604	2.4	0.6	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	251.179	252.466	253.211	1.6	0.8	0.3
Housing	228.659	228.903	228.707	2.7	0.0	-0.1
Shelter	272.185	273.686	274.129	3.5	0.7	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	271.865	273.290	274.266	3.3	0.9	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2).....	276.819	278.413	279.316	3.6	0.9	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	276.786	278.382	279.283	3.6	0.9	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	226.781	221.705	216.900	-1.8	-4.4	-2.2
Household energy	185.179	179.599	174.445	-3.3	-5.8	-2.9
Energy services(1)	191.940	185.778	180.485	-3.5	-6.0	-2.8
Electricity(1).....	211.597	201.354	196.462	-2.8	-7.2	-2.4
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	148.086	148.866	143.269	-5.0	-3.3	-3.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	114.309	113.991	114.559	2.3	0.2	0.5
Apparel.....	118.790	121.445	117.674	-0.7	-0.9	-3.1
Transportation	205.689	205.094	200.177	0.8	-2.7	-2.4
Private transportation	201.242	200.572	195.584	0.9	-2.8	-2.5
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	95.946	95.721	96.525	2.0	0.6	0.8
New vehicles	135.734	135.636	136.792	0.6	0.8	0.9
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	95.960	95.896	96.699	0.8	0.8	0.8
New cars(4).....	132.796	132.721	133.603	0.9	0.6	0.7
Used cars and trucks.....	133.797	135.414	136.638	1.8	2.1	0.9
Motor fuel	256.001	251.281	225.285	-4.3	-12.0	-10.3
Gasoline (all types).....	254.525	249.530	223.312	-4.6	-12.3	-10.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	248.063	243.090	217.055	-4.9	-12.5	-10.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	292.947	287.074	260.132	-2.7	-11.2	-9.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	276.808	272.486	249.154	-2.7	-10.0	-8.6
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	731.895	742.727	741.088		1.3	-0.2
Medical care	485.951	486.365	487.769	1.6	0.4	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	394.593	395.429	396.311	1.9	0.4	0.2
Medical care services.....	516.535	516.805	518.385	1.5	0.4	0.3
Professional services	418.012	416.133	416.787	0.0	-0.3	0.2
Recreation(3).....	120.600	120.033	119.929	-1.4	-0.6	-0.1
Education and communication(3).....	138.124	138.305	137.491	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,190.313	1,197.033	1,197.208		0.6	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		
	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Nov. 2018	Nov. 2017	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018
Other goods and services	426.977	427.530	428.857	2.4	0.4	0.3
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	180.149	180.185	177.715	-0.1	-1.4	-1.4
Commodities less food and beverages	148.818	148.792	145.696	-0.5	-2.1	-2.1
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	200.973	201.043	192.814	-1.2	-4.1	-4.1
Durables	100.267	100.177	100.892	0.5	0.6	0.7
Services.....	292.607	292.889	292.654	2.3	0.0	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	224.666	224.358	222.327	0.5	-1.0	-0.9
All items less medical care	223.670	223.814	222.293	1.4	-0.6	-0.7
Commodities less food.....	152.027	152.034	149.020	-0.5	-2.0	-2.0
Nondurables	222.664	222.795	218.112	-0.3	-2.0	-2.1
Nondurables less food.....	203.591	203.730	196.010	-1.0	-3.7	-3.8
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	323.653	322.559	321.569	1.3	-0.6	-0.3
Services less medical care services.....	275.906	276.189	275.819	2.5	0.0	-0.1
Energy	217.523	212.364	197.513	-3.6	-9.2	-7.0
All items less energy	240.176	240.875	240.842	1.8	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	240.248	241.052	241.121	2.1	0.4	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) 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.