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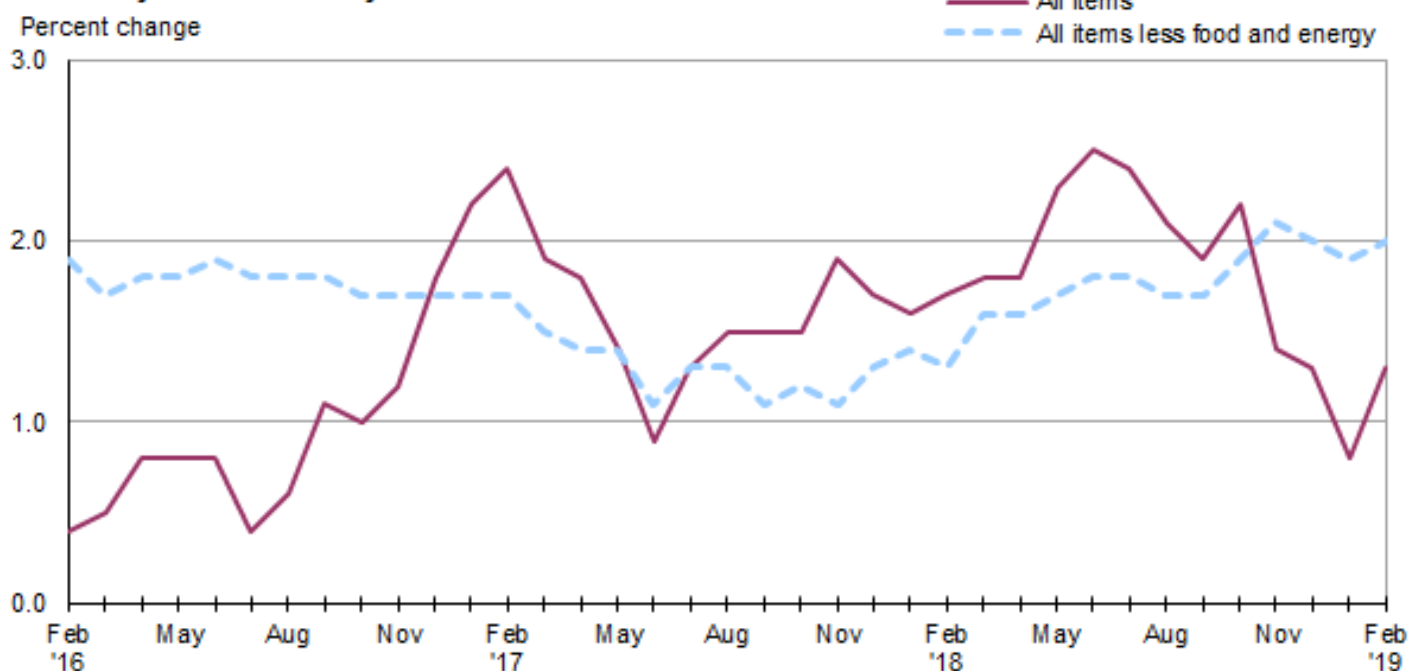
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – February 2019

Prices in the Midwest up 0.7 percent in February and 1.3 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.7 percent in February following a gain of 0.2 percent in the prior month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The February movement was influenced by higher prices for gasoline, shelter, apparel, and food. Overall, energy costs were up 3.6 percent and prices for food increased 0.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent for the second month in a row. (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 1.3 percent over the latest 12 months. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, declined 6.3 percent. Food prices increased 1.5 percent. The index for all items less food and energy was up 2.0 percent from February 2018 to February 2019. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, February 2016–February 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were up 0.6 percent in February led by a 0.9-percent increase in prices for food at home. Prices for food away from home also contributed to the advance, increasing 0.2 percent over the month.

From February 2018 to February 2019, the index for food advanced 1.5 percent. Costs for food away from home were up 2.5 percent and prices for food at home were 0.7 percent higher over the year.

Energy

The energy index turned up 3.6 percent in February after declining in each of the previous four months. The monthly gain reflected a 9.6-percent increase in prices for gasoline. Lower prices for utility (piped) gas service (-4.4 percent) and electricity (-0.7 percent) helped to moderate the increase.

Energy costs decreased 6.3 percent since February 2018 largely due to a decline of 9.5 percent in prices for gasoline. Utility (piped) gas service and electricity prices were down 5.4 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively, from a year ago.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest increased 0.4 percent for the second consecutive month. Among the expenditure categories that registered higher costs were shelter (0.5 percent) and apparel (3.3 percent), while prices for medical care commodities (-1.9 percent) and recreation (-0.2 percent) were among those that declined over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 2.0 percent from February 2018 to February 2019. Higher costs for shelter (3.5 percent), medical care services (2.5 percent), and other goods and services (4.3 percent) were among those that contributed to the increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 235.444 in February 2019. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$235.44 in February 2019.

CPI-W

In February, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 229.110. The CPI-W rose 0.8 percent in February and advanced 1.1 percent over the year.

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

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.6	-0.3	0.3	0.8	0.7	2.2	0.6	1.6	0.2	0.8
February.....	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	2.4	0.2	1.7	0.7	1.3
March.....	0.6	-0.9	0.6	0.5	0.1	1.9	0.2	1.8		
April.....	0.1	-1.1	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.8	0.4	1.8		
May.....	0.4	-0.8	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3		
June.....	0.5	-0.7	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.2	2.5		
July.....	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.4		
August.....	0.0	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.5	0.0	2.1		
September.....	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.5	0.1	1.9		
October.....	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	1.0	-0.2	1.5	0.1	2.2		
November.....	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	1.2	0.2	1.9	-0.6	1.4		
December.....	-0.6	0.0	0.1	1.8	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.3		

The February 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 12, 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.

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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		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
All items	233.458	233.837	235.444	1.3	0.9	0.7
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	379.849	380.466	383.081			
Food and beverages	244.469	245.739	247.108	1.4	1.1	0.6
Food	243.670	245.015	246.428	1.5	1.1	0.6
Food at home	224.499	226.291	228.347	0.7	1.7	0.9
Cereals and bakery products	256.376	257.690	260.329	0.7	1.5	1.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	241.678	244.643	246.053	-0.1	1.8	0.6
Dairy and related products	191.886	192.236	193.663	-2.0	0.9	0.7
Fruits and vegetables	270.970	275.248	276.639	2.3	2.1	0.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	160.776	162.378	166.935	3.7	3.8	2.8
Other food at home	196.121	196.556	197.804	0.0	0.9	0.6
Food away from home.....	275.440	276.128	276.590	2.5	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	253.315	253.559	254.311	1.1	0.4	0.3
Housing	229.553	230.194	230.869	2.7	0.6	0.3
Shelter	274.410	275.220	276.593	3.5	0.8	0.5
Rent of primary residence(1).....	274.928	275.503	276.056	3.2	0.4	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2).....	280.004	280.742	281.362	3.6	0.5	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	279.963	280.704	281.322	3.6	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	222.649	222.229	219.218	-1.4	-1.5	-1.4
Household energy	180.410	179.773	176.604	-2.8	-2.1	-1.8
Energy services(1)	187.152	186.445	182.861	-2.9	-2.3	-1.9
Electricity(1).....	196.912	198.814	197.345	-1.6	0.2	-0.7
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	159.476	154.629	147.886	-5.4	-7.3	-4.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	114.288	115.068	115.854	2.0	1.4	0.7
Apparel.....	113.291	114.788	118.579	-0.9	4.7	3.3
Transportation	194.978	192.640	197.175	-1.4	1.1	2.4
Private transportation	190.450	187.855	192.290	-1.3	1.0	2.4
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	97.425	97.115	97.417	1.3	0.0	0.3
New vehicles	136.733	136.017	137.174	0.2	0.3	0.9
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	96.650	96.191	97.025	0.3	0.4	0.9
New cars(4).....	133.817	133.167	133.619	0.6	-0.1	0.3
Used cars and trucks.....	136.799	137.526	138.090	0.4	0.9	0.4
Motor fuel	198.541	187.852	205.451	-9.4	3.5	9.4
Gasoline (all types).....	196.431	185.866	203.708	-9.5	3.7	9.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	190.436	180.076	197.880	-9.7	3.9	9.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	228.371	218.404	236.046	-8.9	3.4	8.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	226.182	214.908	229.206	-7.7	1.3	6.7
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	738.793	739.537	746.614	1.1	1.1	1.0
Medical care	487.717	492.369	491.532	2.0	0.8	-0.2
Medical care commodities.....	395.354	398.544	390.920	0.0	-1.1	-1.9
Medical care services.....	518.640	523.785	525.252	2.5	1.3	0.3
Professional services	416.817	420.993	421.478	1.0	1.1	0.1
Recreation(3).....	120.650	121.229	121.032	-1.1	0.3	-0.2
Education and communication(3).....	137.412	137.834	137.823	0.0	0.3	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,196.868	1,199.645	1,200.651	1.5	0.3	0.1

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		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
Other goods and services	429.502	428.893	431.938	4.3	0.6	0.7
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	175.167	175.182	177.477	-0.4	1.3	1.3
Commodities less food and beverages	142.160	141.707	144.252	-1.6	1.5	1.8
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	184.244	183.000	188.364	-3.0	2.2	2.9
Durables	101.137	101.268	101.650	0.3	0.5	0.4
Services.....	293.637	294.400	295.269	2.4	0.6	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	221.100	221.334	223.034	0.3	0.9	0.8
All items less medical care	221.421	221.598	223.321	1.2	0.9	0.8
Commodities less food.....	145.560	145.122	147.634	-1.5	1.4	1.7
Nondurables	213.667	213.590	217.123	-0.7	1.6	1.7
Nondurables less food.....	187.933	186.773	191.874	-2.7	2.1	2.7
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	323.350	324.074	324.391	1.3	0.3	0.1
Services less medical care services.....	276.856	277.291	278.116	2.3	0.5	0.3
Energy	188.207	182.886	189.411	-6.3	0.6	3.6
All items less energy	240.861	241.825	242.951	1.9	0.9	0.5
All items less food and energy	241.071	241.972	243.049	2.0	0.8	0.4

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.