



For Release: Thursday, October 10, 2019

19-1743-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

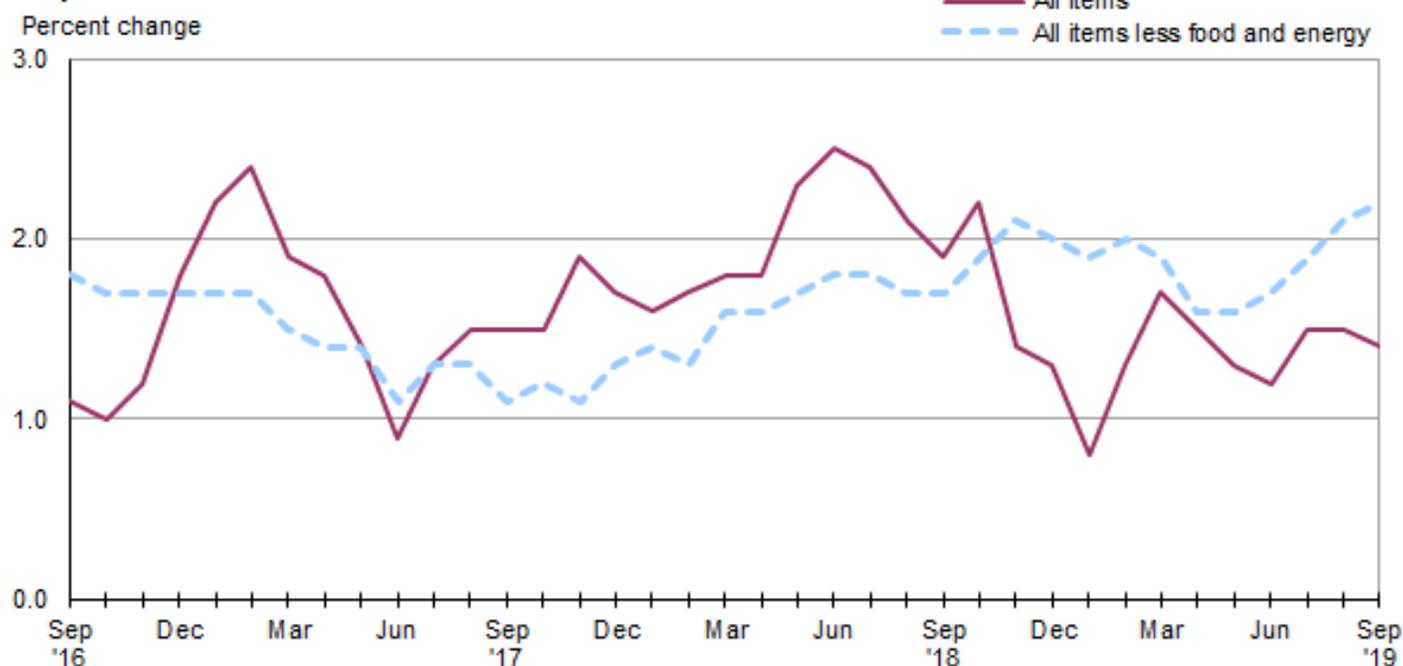
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – September 2019

Area prices were unchanged over the past month, but up 1.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Midwest Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Food prices increased 0.2 percent, while energy prices declined 1.8 percent over the month. Prices for all items less food and energy rose 0.2 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent over the year. Food prices advanced 1.6 percent. Energy prices decreased 5.9 percent, led by lower prices for gasoline. Lower costs for household energy also contributed to the decline. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Food

Food prices inched up 0.2 percent for the month of September. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 0.3 percent and prices for food away from home crept up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.6 percent. Prices for food at home rose 0.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 2.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.8 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for electricity (-2.9 percent) and gasoline (-1.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 0.8 percent, for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 5.9 percent over the year, largely as a result of lower prices for gasoline (-8.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity declined 1.1 percent, and prices for natural gas service declined 6.7 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was up 0.2 percent in September. Higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent) and apparel (3.0 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-2.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (3.5 percent) and medical care services (4.0 percent). Lower prices for education and communication (-0.2 percent) partly offset the increases.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 238.847 in September 2019. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$238.85 in September 2019.

CPI-W

In September, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 232.901. The CPI-W was unchanged in September and advanced 1.3 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								
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	0.6	1.7
April.....	0.1	-1.1	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.8	0.4	1.8	0.3	1.5
May.....	0.4	-0.8	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.3	1.3
June.....	0.5	-0.7	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.2	2.5	0.0	1.2
July.....	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.4	0.2	1.5
August.....	0.0	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.5	0.0	2.1	0.0	1.5
September.....	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.5	0.1	1.9	0.0	1.4
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 October 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest Region is scheduled to be released on November 13, 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 6,000 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		
	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Sep. 2018	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019
All items.....	238.760	238.786	238.847	1.4	0.0	0.0
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	388.476	388.517	388.618			
Food and beverages	247.594	247.801	248.257	1.6	0.3	0.2
Food	246.889	247.123	247.641	1.6	0.3	0.2
Food at home	226.822	227.101	227.677	0.6	0.4	0.3
Cereals and bakery products	260.334	256.555	259.537	0.2	-0.3	1.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	247.967	247.869	247.380	0.8	-0.2	-0.2
Dairy and related products	195.282	196.724	196.666	0.5	0.7	0.0
Fruits and vegetables.....	266.628	269.983	268.486	0.4	0.7	-0.6
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	163.567	162.877	163.807	0.9	0.1	0.6
Other food at home	197.460	198.077	199.414	0.5	1.0	0.7
Food away from home.....	280.046	280.215	280.653	2.9	0.2	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	255.142	254.981	254.578	1.4	-0.2	-0.2
Housing	234.158	234.214	234.593	2.6	0.2	0.2
Shelter	280.794	280.599	281.723	3.5	0.3	0.4
Rent of primary residence(1).....	278.982	279.525	280.641	3.2	0.6	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2).....	284.697	285.356	286.203	3.4	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	284.655	285.303	286.162	3.4	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	225.592	226.326	222.517	-1.9	-1.4	-1.7
Household energy	182.804	183.546	179.559	-3.0	-1.8	-2.2
Energy services(1)	190.036	190.910	186.565	-2.8	-1.8	-2.3
Electricity(1).....	214.893	215.444	209.303	-1.1	-2.6	-2.9
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	137.967	139.303	138.119	-6.7	0.1	-0.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	114.949	115.338	115.967	1.5	0.9	0.5
Apparel.....	113.802	116.262	119.790	0.8	5.3	3.0
Transportation	207.344	205.050	202.862	-1.4	-2.2	-1.1
Private transportation	202.530	200.426	198.069	-1.6	-2.2	-1.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	98.447	98.717	96.728	0.8	-1.7	-2.0
New vehicles	137.566	137.052	135.622	-0.1	-1.4	-1.0
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	97.242	96.876	95.888	-0.1	-1.4	-1.0
New cars(4).....	133.884	133.327	131.698	-0.8	-1.6	-1.2
Used cars and trucks.....	142.013	143.379	137.885	3.1	-2.9	-3.8
Motor fuel	249.836	238.369	234.727	-8.3	-6.0	-1.5
Gasoline (all types).....	248.612	237.091	233.374	-8.3	-6.1	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	242.197	230.701	226.982	-8.5	-6.3	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	287.529	273.710	272.349	-7.0	-5.3	-0.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	271.368	262.530	258.645	-6.6	-4.7	-1.5
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	731.670	732.101	732.560	0.1	0.1	0.1
Medical care	495.492	500.589	500.625	3.0	1.0	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	388.785	390.388	391.207	-0.9	0.6	0.2
Medical care services.....	531.278	537.556	537.327	4.0	1.1	0.0
Professional services	421.410	421.643	421.369	0.8	0.0	-0.1
Recreation(3).....	121.251	121.262	121.085	0.4	-0.1	-0.1
Education and communication(3).....	137.018	137.387	137.788	-0.2	0.6	0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,194.919	1,201.106	1,205.215	1.3	0.9	0.3

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. 2019	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Sep. 2018	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019
Other goods and services	435.996	436.230	438.131	2.6	0.5	0.4
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	180.816	180.440	180.171	0.0	-0.4	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	148.519	147.941	147.413	-0.9	-0.7	-0.4
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	197.861	196.197	196.508	-2.2	-0.7	0.2
Durables	101.940	102.161	101.098	0.8	-0.8	-1.0
Services.....	298.540	298.990	299.400	2.3	0.3	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	226.069	226.171	225.866	0.5	-0.1	-0.1
All items less medical care	226.607	226.391	226.454	1.2	-0.1	0.0
Commodities less food.....	151.833	151.263	150.736	-0.8	-0.7	-0.3
Nondurables	222.474	221.673	222.054	-0.3	-0.2	0.2
Nondurables less food.....	200.878	199.300	199.570	-2.0	-0.7	0.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	326.679	327.840	327.464	1.2	0.2	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	281.182	281.195	281.654	2.1	0.2	0.2
Energy	213.389	208.437	204.625	-5.9	-4.1	-1.8
All items less energy	244.202	244.735	245.192	2.1	0.4	0.2
All items less food and energy	244.444	245.031	245.479	2.2	0.4	0.2

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.