



For Release: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

20-1538-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

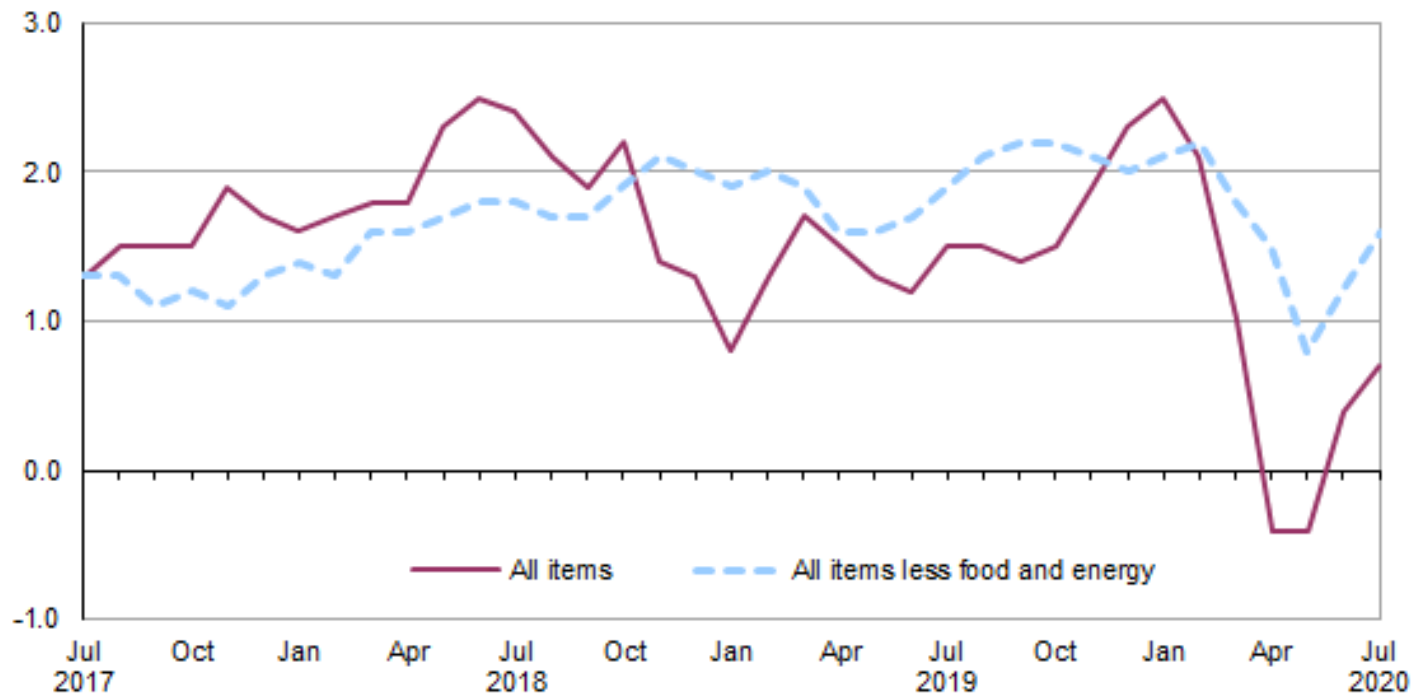
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – July 2020

Area prices up 0.5 percent over the month and up 0.7 percent over the year

Prices in the Midwest Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.5 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The July increase was influenced by higher prices for motor fuel, as well as non-energy sub-components within transportation. (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 increased 0.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent over the year. Food prices rose 3.4 percent. Energy prices fell 12.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, July 2017–July 2020
Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices decreased 0.3 percent for the month of July. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home declined 1.0 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 0.7 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.4 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 4.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 2.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 1.5 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (3.9 percent). Prices for electricity rose 0.5 percent, while prices for natural gas service decreased 2.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 12.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-22.1 percent). Prices paid for electricity decreased 1.2 percent, and prices for natural gas service decreased 2.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.5 percent in July. Higher prices for motor vehicle insurance (11.2 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (2.1 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-1.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. Components contributing the most to the increase included shelter (2.0 percent) and medical care services (6.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in apparel (-6.8 percent).

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

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.3	0.8	0.7	2.2	0.4	1.6	-0.2	0.8	0.4	2.5
February.....	0.2	0.4	0.8	2.4	0.9	1.7	0.9	1.3	0.3	2.1
March.....	0.6	0.5	0.2	1.9	0.4	1.8	1.3	1.7	-0.5	1.0
April.....	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.8	0.6	1.8	0.9	1.5	-1.1	-0.4
May.....	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.4	0.9	2.3	0.6	1.3	0.3	-0.4
June.....	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.7	2.5	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.4
July.....	0.1	0.4	0.1	1.3	0.1	2.4	0.2	1.5	0.5	0.7
August.....	-0.3	0.6	0.3	1.5	-0.1	2.1	0.2	1.5		
September.....	0.4	1.1	0.5	1.5	0.1	1.9	0.0	1.4		
October.....	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.5	0.2	2.2	0.2	1.5		
November.....	-0.4	1.2	0.0	1.9	-0.5	1.4	0.0	1.9		
December.....	-0.2	1.8	0.0	1.7	-0.9	1.3	-0.2	2.3		

The August 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest Region is scheduled to be released on Friday, September 11, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on July 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in July was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

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		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
All items	237.291	239.259	240.430	0.7	1.3	0.5
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	386.086	389.287	391.193			
Food and beverages	255.163	256.156	255.651	3.3	0.2	-0.2
Food	255.009	255.935	255.251	3.4	0.1	-0.3
Food at home	238.881	238.991	236.510	4.3	-1.0	-1.0
Cereals and bakery products	262.661	263.866	263.315	1.1	0.2	-0.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	277.320	284.075	270.371	9.0	-2.5	-4.8
Dairy and related products	205.984	205.087	205.139	5.0	-0.4	0.0
Fruits and vegetables	276.653	270.590	270.542	1.5	-2.2	0.0
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	168.831	168.144	168.582	3.1	-0.1	0.3
Other food at home	205.651	204.792	205.355	4.0	-0.1	0.3
Food away from home.....	282.357	284.520	286.524	2.3	1.5	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	255.647	257.467	259.202	1.6	1.4	0.7
Housing	236.766	237.990	238.178	1.7	0.6	0.1
Shelter	285.288	286.137	286.463	2.0	0.4	0.1
Rent of primary residence(1).....	286.833	287.804	288.153	3.3	0.5	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1) (2).....	291.630	292.443	292.860	2.9	0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	291.555	292.368	292.780	2.9	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	219.552	224.767	224.181	-0.6	2.1	-0.3
Household energy	174.911	180.265	179.607	-1.7	2.7	-0.4
Energy services(1)	182.028	187.706	187.152	-1.5	2.8	-0.3
Electricity(1).....	201.876	211.431	212.409	-1.2	5.2	0.5
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	138.616	137.785	134.840	-2.3	-2.7	-2.1
Household furnishings and operations	117.020	117.208	117.419	2.1	0.3	0.2
Apparel	106.846	105.982	106.074	-6.8	-0.7	0.1
Transportation	183.753	189.894	195.695	-5.6	6.5	3.1
Private transportation	181.347	187.562	193.504	-4.5	6.7	3.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	97.553	97.565	99.656	1.2	2.2	2.1
New vehicles	138.248	138.803	140.327	2.0	1.5	1.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	97.736	98.126	99.192	2.0	1.5	1.1
New cars(4).....	135.386	136.532	139.099	3.9	2.7	1.9
Used cars and trucks.....	137.421	135.976	141.128	-0.6	2.7	3.8
Motor fuel	165.162	187.467	194.554	-22.1	17.8	3.8
Gasoline (all types).....	163.573	186.295	193.576	-22.1	18.3	3.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	158.112	180.505	187.675	-22.5	18.7	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	195.278	222.849	230.053	-20.0	17.8	3.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	193.170	214.002	221.246	-18.5	14.5	3.4
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	608.167	661.029	735.087	0.5	20.9	11.2
Medical care	515.567	517.940	519.089	4.8	0.7	0.2
Medical care commodities.....	381.313	382.917	383.436	-1.4	0.6	0.1
Medical care services.....	560.384	563.012	564.365	6.2	0.7	0.2
Professional services	427.548	428.816	429.462	1.9	0.4	0.2
Recreation(3).....	123.004	123.040	121.476	0.2	-1.2	-1.3
Education and communication(3).....	138.892	139.006	140.550	2.6	1.2	1.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,199.684	1,203.348	1,207.969	1.1	0.7	0.4

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		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
Other goods and services	444.549	447.885	446.854	2.5	0.5	-0.2
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	175.525	177.371	178.516	-1.3	1.7	0.6
Commodities less food and beverages	138.769	140.840	142.530	-4.0	2.7	1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	174.352	179.304	181.492	-8.3	4.1	1.2
Durables	101.686	101.808	103.008	1.0	1.3	1.2
Services.....	301.252	303.312	304.487	2.0	1.1	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	222.583	224.930	226.387	0.1	1.7	0.6
All items less medical care	224.095	226.046	227.220	0.3	1.4	0.5
Commodities less food	142.313	144.385	146.082	-3.8	2.6	1.2
Nondurables	213.574	216.663	217.579	-2.2	1.9	0.4
Nondurables less food.....	178.893	183.633	185.786	-7.5	3.9	1.2
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	327.416	330.832	332.955	1.9	1.7	0.6
Services less medical care services.....	281.842	283.866	285.032	1.4	1.1	0.4
Energy	170.732	183.717	186.542	-12.6	9.3	1.5
All items less energy	246.660	247.634	248.668	1.8	0.8	0.4
All items less food and energy	245.905	246.892	248.233	1.6	0.9	0.5

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.