



For Release: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

21-406-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

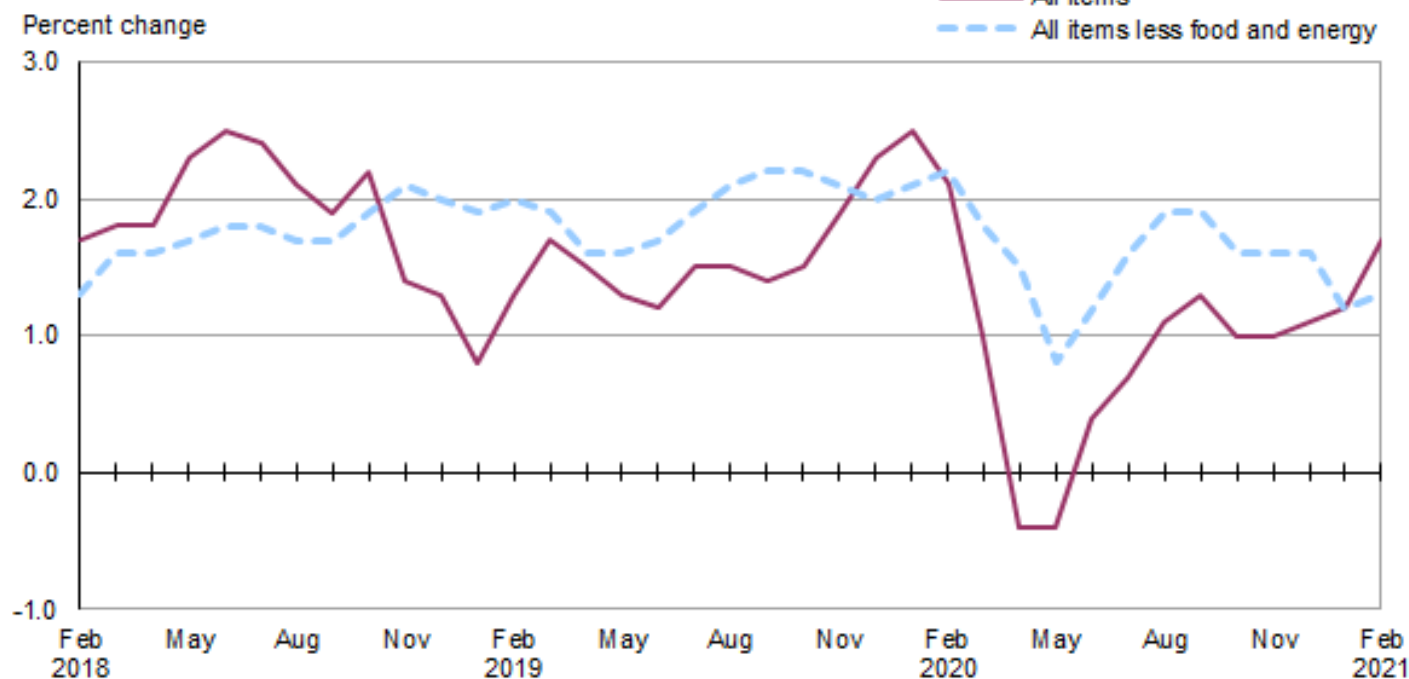
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – February 2021

Regional prices up 0.8 percent over the past month, up 1.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Midwest Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.8 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The February increase was most influenced by higher prices for all items less food and energy, although increased prices for energy was another major factor. (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 rose 1.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.3 percent over the year. Food prices rose 2.9 percent and energy prices increased 3.7 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, February 2018–February 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices crept up 0.1 percent for the month of February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home inched up 0.2 percent and prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.9 percent. Prices for food at home rose 2.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 3.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.7 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (8.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 1.7 percent and prices for electricity edged up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices increased 3.7 percent over the year, fueled primarily by higher prices for gasoline (3.4 percent) and natural gas service (8.8 percent). Prices for electricity increased 1.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in February. Higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent), and apparel (2.4 percent), and recreation (1.2 percent) were among the components leading the increase.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (1.5 percent), used cars and trucks (9.8 percent), and medical care services (3.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-2.1 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-2.5 percent).

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

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.7	2.2	0.4	1.6	-0.2	0.8	0.4	2.5	0.5	1.2
February.....	0.8	2.4	0.9	1.7	0.9	1.3	0.3	2.1	0.8	1.7
March.....	0.2	1.9	0.4	1.8	1.3	1.7	-0.5	1.0		
April.....	0.5	1.8	0.6	1.8	0.9	1.5	-1.1	-0.4		
May.....	0.4	1.4	0.9	2.3	0.6	1.3	0.3	-0.4		
June.....	0.0	0.9	0.7	2.5	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.4		
July.....	0.1	1.3	0.1	2.4	0.2	1.5	0.5	0.7		
August.....	0.3	1.5	-0.1	2.1	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.1		
September.....	0.5	1.5	0.1	1.9	0.0	1.4	0.2	1.3		
October.....	0.1	1.5	0.2	2.2	0.2	1.5	-0.1	1.0		
November.....	0.0	1.9	-0.5	1.4	0.0	1.9	-0.2	1.0		
December.....	0.0	1.7	-0.9	1.3	-0.2	2.3	0.1	1.1		

The March 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest Region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on February 2021 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 February 2021 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 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 U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

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 individuals with sensory impairments 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		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
All items	241.453	242.552	244.477	1.7	1.3	0.8
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	392.857	394.646	397.778			
Food and beverages	255.750	257.301	257.637	2.8	0.7	0.1
Food	255.213	256.795	257.124	2.9	0.7	0.1
Food at home	233.262	235.377	235.863	2.6	1.1	0.2
Cereals and bakery products	265.348	267.438	267.373	3.2	0.8	0.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	255.078	257.090	256.395	2.4	0.5	-0.3
Dairy and related products	209.573	207.921	209.923	2.9	0.2	1.0
Fruits and vegetables	269.604	276.447	275.627	1.8	2.2	-0.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	168.164	171.316	172.824	4.3	2.8	0.9
Other food at home	202.666	203.284	204.089	2.1	0.7	0.4
Food away from home.....	291.304	292.106	292.202	3.1	0.3	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	261.004	262.158	262.583	2.6	0.6	0.2
Housing	239.663	239.842	241.060	1.9	0.6	0.5
Shelter	288.195	288.325	289.397	1.5	0.4	0.4
Rent of primary residence(1).....	291.126	291.192	291.968	2.4	0.3	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2).....	295.119	295.569	296.561	2.2	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	295.046	295.500	296.488	2.2	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	224.571	226.692	228.685	4.0	1.8	0.9
Household energy	179.203	181.173	183.021	4.2	2.1	1.0
Energy services(1)	186.216	187.310	188.415	3.6	1.2	0.6
Electricity(1).....	198.366	200.108	200.245	1.3	0.9	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	154.711	154.708	157.272	8.8	1.7	1.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	118.772	118.128	119.297	2.7	0.4	1.0
Apparel.....	106.713	110.662	113.360	-2.1	6.2	2.4
Transportation	196.331	197.506	202.003	0.6	2.9	2.3
Private transportation	194.863	196.023	200.386	2.2	2.8	2.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	102.693	100.171	100.404	2.9	-2.2	0.2
New vehicles	141.477	140.973	141.160	1.7	-0.2	0.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	99.999	99.656	99.789	1.7	-0.2	0.1
New cars(4).....	140.583	139.985	139.773	2.4	-0.6	-0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	150.443	149.311	149.743	9.8	-0.5	0.3
Motor fuel	189.676	206.097	223.779	3.3	18.0	8.6
Gasoline (all types).....	188.417	204.864	222.543	3.4	18.1	8.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	182.575	198.913	216.461	3.6	18.6	8.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	226.383	242.235	261.041	3.9	15.3	7.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	215.847	230.203	245.420	1.3	13.7	6.6
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	702.580	713.866	730.531	-2.5	4.0	2.3
Medical care	518.433	523.287	525.867	2.5	1.4	0.5
Medical care commodities.....	377.106	377.966	376.372	-1.6	-0.2	-0.4
Medical care services.....	565.508	571.651	575.568	3.4	1.8	0.7
Professional services	429.675	431.850	439.955	3.3	2.4	1.9
Recreation(3).....	123.939	124.181	125.616	1.5	1.4	1.2
Education and communication(3).....	140.421	140.919	141.211	1.5	0.6	0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,217.907	1,219.653	1,219.762	1.6	0.2	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		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Other goods and services	446.941	446.740	447.000	0.6	0.0	0.1
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	179.393	181.384	183.356	2.3	2.2	1.1
Commodities less food and beverages	143.650	145.709	148.184	2.0	3.2	1.7
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	180.235	186.423	191.771	0.5	6.4	2.9
Durables	105.410	104.780	105.265	3.7	-0.1	0.5
Services.....	305.650	305.728	307.558	1.3	0.6	0.6
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	227.180	228.606	230.823	1.8	1.6	1.0
All items less medical care	228.327	229.245	231.141	1.6	1.2	0.8
Commodities less food.....	147.223	149.265	151.695	2.0	3.0	1.6
Nondurables	216.962	220.970	223.955	1.8	3.2	1.4
Nondurables less food.....	184.724	190.578	195.601	0.7	5.9	2.6
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	333.536	333.549	336.234	1.0	0.8	0.8
Services less medical care services.....	286.203	285.794	287.465	0.9	0.4	0.6
Energy	184.125	192.598	201.571	3.7	9.5	4.7
All items less energy	250.023	250.456	251.755	1.5	0.7	0.5
All items less food and energy	249.839	250.069	251.544	1.3	0.7	0.6

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.