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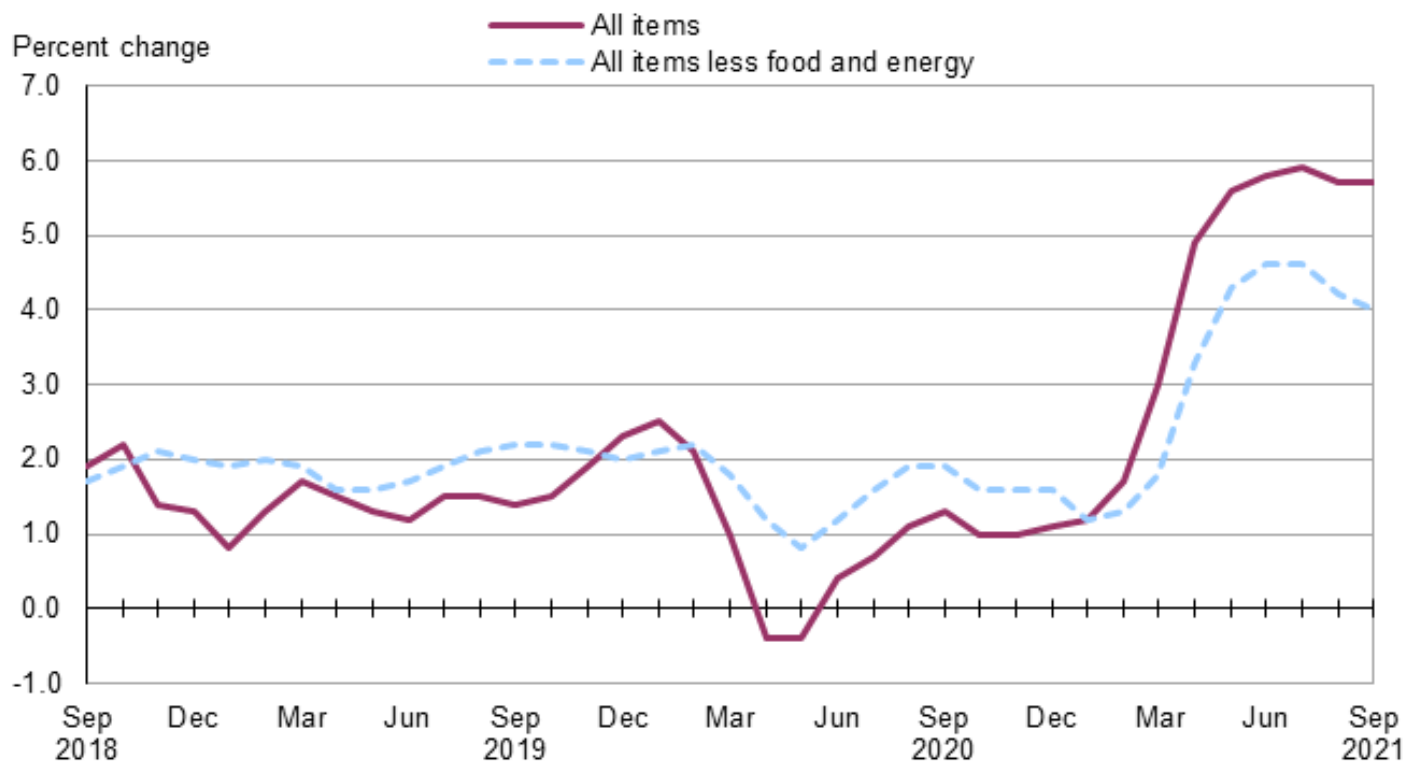
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – September 2021

Area prices up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 5.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Midwest Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.2 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Food prices were up 1.0 percent in September and energy costs rose 0.9 percent. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in September. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for shelter, apparel, and household furnishings and operations. The categories for used cars and trucks, recreation, and medical care were lower. (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 5.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 4.0 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 27.3 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices increased 5.5 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 1.0 percent for the month of September. Prices for food at home rose 1.1 percent, and prices for food away from home were up 0.9 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 5.5 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 5.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home rose 5.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 0.9 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for natural gas service (4.6 percent). Prices for gasoline were up 0.1 percent, while prices for electricity fell 0.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 27.3 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (45.8 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 34.2 percent, and prices for electricity increased 0.8 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in September. Higher prices for shelter (0.3 percent), apparel (2.7 percent), and household furnishings and operations (1.2 percent) were offset by lower prices for used cars and trucks (-3.9 percent), recreation (-0.8 percent), and medical care (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 4.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (3.8 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (14.1 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	0.6	1.6	0.2	0.8	0.4	2.5	0.5	1.2
February.....	0.2	2.4	0.2	1.7	0.7	1.3	0.3	2.1	0.8	1.7
March.....	0.1	1.9	0.2	1.8	0.6	1.7	-0.5	1.0	0.7	3.0
April.....	0.4	1.8	0.4	1.8	0.3	1.5	-1.1	-0.4	0.8	4.9
May.....	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.3	-0.4	1.0	5.6
June.....	0.0	0.9	0.2	2.5	0.0	1.2	0.8	0.4	1.0	5.8
July.....	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.4	0.2	1.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	5.9
August.....	0.3	1.5	0.0	2.1	0.0	1.5	0.4	1.1	0.2	5.7
September.....	0.3	1.5	0.1	1.9	0.0	1.4	0.2	1.3	0.2	5.7
October.....	-0.2	1.5	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.5	-0.1	1.0		
November.....	0.2	1.9	-0.6	1.4	-0.2	1.9	-0.2	1.0		
December.....	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.3	0.0	2.3	0.1	1.1		

The October 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest Region is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on September 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 September 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.

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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		
	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
All items	254.671	255.142	255.709	5.7	0.4	0.2
All items (December 1977 = 100).....	414.364	415.130	416.052			
Food and beverages	264.662	266.048	268.655	5.2	1.5	1.0
Food	264.563	266.100	268.772	5.5	1.6	1.0
Food at home	241.889	243.148	245.802	5.6	1.6	1.1
Cereals and bakery products	271.821	271.032	272.023	2.4	0.1	0.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	278.787	280.923	286.760	10.5	2.9	2.1
Dairy and related products	209.480	210.474	211.399	2.9	0.9	0.4
Fruits and vegetables	281.328	282.140	281.599	5.4	0.1	-0.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	172.584	174.915	177.459	7.4	2.8	1.5
Other food at home	205.596	206.576	209.631	3.7	2.0	1.5
Food away from home.....	301.855	303.828	306.560	5.3	1.6	0.9
Alcoholic beverages	264.404	263.907	265.691	2.3	0.5	0.7
Housing	248.779	249.750	251.165	5.1	1.0	0.6
Shelter	296.222	297.007	297.995	3.8	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1).....	296.658	297.715	299.054	3.5	0.8	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1) (2).....	301.584	302.306	303.666	3.4	0.7	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	301.495	302.218	303.582	3.4	0.7	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	246.840	248.051	251.492	9.9	1.9	1.4
Household energy	201.594	202.624	206.169	11.9	2.3	1.7
Energy services(1)	208.871	209.796	213.068	10.9	2.0	1.6
Electricity(1).....	217.039	215.281	215.015	0.8	-0.9	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	182.176	187.286	195.943	34.2	7.6	4.6
Household furnishings and operations	123.950	125.239	126.694	8.2	2.2	1.2
Apparel	109.230	109.793	112.764	1.6	3.2	2.7
Transportation	233.423	232.393	230.233	16.6	-1.4	-0.9
Private transportation	231.799	231.550	229.930	17.7	-0.8	-0.7
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	118.797	118.732	117.280	14.1	-1.3	-1.2
New vehicles	150.440	152.843	154.600	10.2	2.8	1.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	106.340	108.037	109.271	10.2	2.8	1.1
New cars(4).....	146.908	149.986	151.698	9.0	3.3	1.1
Used cars and trucks.....	200.603	197.797	190.025	24.3	-5.3	-3.9
Motor fuel	277.787	277.002	277.264	45.6	-0.2	0.1
Gasoline (all types).....	276.714	275.912	276.092	45.8	-0.2	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	270.038	269.193	269.348	46.7	-0.3	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	317.948	317.537	318.098	41.0	0.0	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	296.018	295.868	296.253	36.7	0.1	0.1
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	742.623	740.830	741.585	5.1	-0.1	0.1
Medical care	522.055	523.732	521.982	-0.1	0.0	-0.3
Medical care commodities.....	371.192	371.226	370.263	-4.2	-0.3	-0.3
Medical care services.....	572.174	574.379	572.372	0.8	0.0	-0.3
Professional services	436.969	439.047	437.914	1.8	0.2	-0.3
Recreation(3).....	126.935	126.790	125.820	1.6	-0.9	-0.8
Education and communication(3).....	141.853	141.308	141.890	0.3	0.0	0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) ..	1,228.391	1,219.672	1,226.770	0.6	-0.1	0.6

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. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Sep. 2020	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021
Other goods and services	455.936	458.956	458.443	3.0	0.5	-0.1
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	195.708	196.461	197.314	9.8	0.8	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages	161.904	162.393	162.574	12.7	0.4	0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	202.874	203.475	205.073	12.5	1.1	0.8
Durables	118.962	119.329	118.648	12.8	-0.3	-0.6
Services.....	315.114	315.258	315.491	3.1	0.1	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	242.184	242.553	242.983	6.5	0.3	0.2
All items less medical care	242.039	242.452	243.133	6.4	0.5	0.3
Commodities less food	165.148	165.614	165.837	12.2	0.4	0.1
Nondurables	233.165	234.142	236.228	8.4	1.3	0.9
Nondurables less food.....	206.088	206.618	208.223	11.6	1.0	0.8
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	344.691	344.117	343.507	2.3	-0.3	-0.2
Services less medical care services.....	295.934	295.913	296.328	3.4	0.1	0.1
Energy	236.105	236.320	238.393	27.3	1.0	0.9
All items less energy	259.835	260.336	260.771	4.2	0.4	0.2
All items less food and energy	259.762	260.080	260.120	4.0	0.1	0.0

(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.