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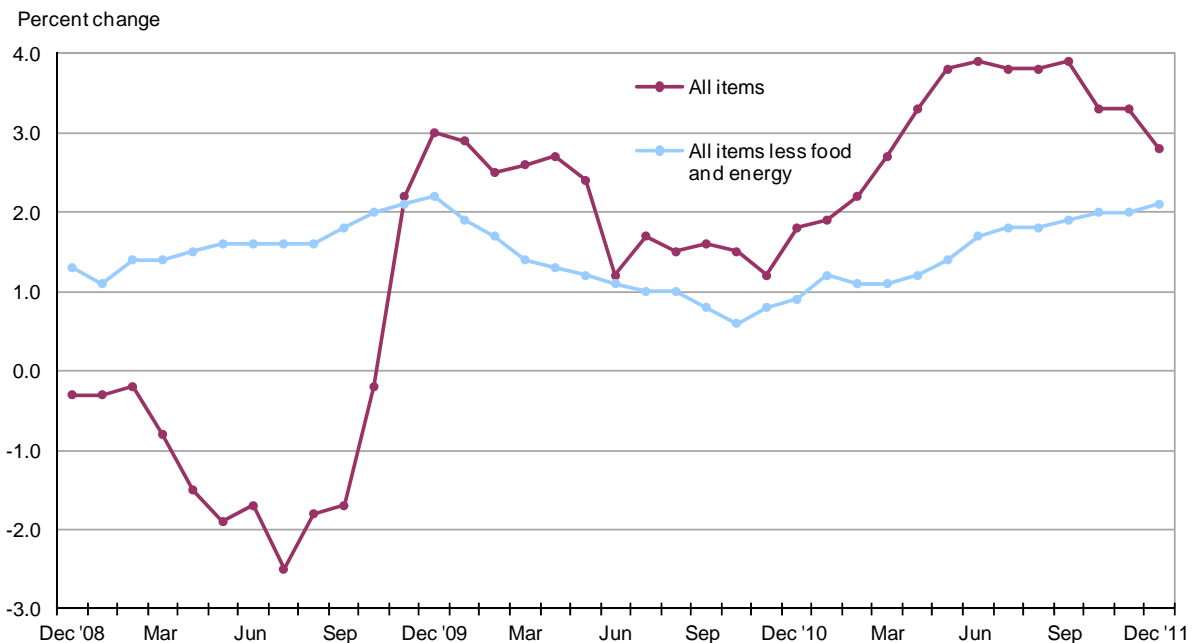
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MIDWEST REGION CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – DECEMBER 2011
Prices in the Midwest down 0.2 percent in December but 2.8 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest declined 0.2 percent in December the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the monthly decrease was largely attributable to lower prices for motor fuel which led a decline of 2.1 percent in the energy index. Food prices rose 0.2 percent and the index for all items less food and energy was unchanged.

The CPI-U rose 2.8 percent in 2011. The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, was up 5.9 percent since last December and the index for food rose 4.7 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U increased 2.1 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year changes in consumer price indexes, Midwest Region, December 2008–December 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices rose 0.2 percent in December. Leading this increase, costs for food away from home advanced 0.3 percent while prices for food at home were little changed (0.1 percent).

From December 2010 to December 2011, the index for food increased 4.7 percent. Higher prices for food at home accounted for nearly three-fourths of the gain, advancing 6.0 percent. Prices for food away from home were up 2.9 percent in 2011.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.1 percent in December, the seventh consecutive monthly decline. Motor fuel prices had the greatest impact on energy costs, decreasing 3.3 percent. Within household energy, costs for utility (piped) gas service declined 1.1 percent over the month while electricity prices turned up 0.2 percent.

Energy prices were 5.9 percent higher than their December 2010 level despite falling a total of 12.5 percent since May. A 9.6-percent rise in motor fuel costs, all of which occurred in the first half of the year, was almost entirely responsible for the higher energy costs. Prices for electricity were up 3.6 percent but utility (piped) gas service costs decreased 4.9 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in December due to offsetting movements within the index. Components registering lower prices over the month included apparel, down 3.2 percent reflecting seasonal trends, and used cars and trucks (-0.8 percent). In contrast, expenditure categories posting higher prices over the month included recreation (1.2 percent), shelter (0.1 percent), and other goods and services (0.7 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent in 2011. Higher costs for shelter (1.5 percent), medical care (3.5 percent), and apparel (5.6 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 215.173 in December 2011. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$215.17 in December 2011. Because regional CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the regional indexes.

Table A. Midwest Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.6	3.6	0.1	1.2	0.6	4.3	0.6	-0.3	0.5	2.9	0.5	1.9
February	-0.1	3.0	0.7	2.0	0.2	3.8	0.3	-0.2	0.0	2.5	0.3	2.2
March	0.7	3.1	1.0	2.3	0.9	3.7	0.3	-0.8	0.4	2.6	0.9	2.7
April	0.5	2.8	0.5	2.3	0.8	4.0	0.2	-1.5	0.2	2.7	0.7	3.3
May	0.3	3.3	0.9	2.9	0.9	4.0	0.4	-1.9	0.1	2.4	0.6	3.8
June	0.3	3.4	0.0	2.7	0.9	4.9	1.1	-1.7	0.0	1.2	0.0	3.9
July	0.3	3.3	-0.1	2.3	0.5	5.6	-0.3	-2.5	0.2	1.7	0.1	3.8
August	0.3	2.8	-0.2	1.8	-0.3	5.4	0.4	-1.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	3.8
September	-0.7	0.6	0.6	3.1	0.0	4.8	0.0	-1.7	0.1	1.6	0.2	3.9
October	-0.7	0.1	-0.1	3.7	-1.5	3.3	0.1	-0.2	0.0	1.5	-0.6	3.3
November	0.3	1.3	0.7	4.1	-2.1	0.5	0.3	2.2	0.1	1.2	0.0	3.3
December	0.1	1.7	-0.3	3.8	-1.1	-0.3	-0.3	3.0	0.2	1.8	-0.2	2.8

CPI-W

In December, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 211.459, down 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 3.1 percent over the year.

The January 2012 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Friday, February 17, 2012.

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 25,000 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/homch17_a.htm.

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 areas; 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.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Mountain-Plains Information Office at (816) 285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011
Expenditure category						
All items	215.653	215.614	215.173	2.8	-0.2	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	350.880	350.816	350.098	-	-	-
Food and beverages	224.763	224.667	225.041	4.6	.1	.2
Food	224.280	224.115	224.459	4.7	.1	.2
Food at home	220.487	219.881	220.051	6.0	-.2	.1
Food away from home	230.251	230.721	231.314	2.9	.5	.3
Alcoholic beverages	229.917	230.616	231.354	4.5	.6	.3
Housing	199.722	199.574	199.683	1.4	.0	.1
Shelter	230.581	230.717	230.972	1.5	.2	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	226.696	227.256	227.800	1.9	.5	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	235.079	235.554	235.978	1.5	.4	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	235.082	235.557	235.980	1.5	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities	205.288	203.625	203.181	1.6	-1.0	-.2
Household energy	176.690	174.798	174.280	1.1	-1.4	-.3
Energy services ¹	181.443	179.255	178.852	.7	-1.4	-.2
Electricity ¹	183.061	180.168	180.472	3.6	-1.4	.2
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	169.877	169.200	167.400	-4.9	-1.5	-1.1
Household furnishings and operations	118.778	118.674	118.669	.9	-.1	.0
Apparel	121.318	120.883	116.998	5.6	-3.6	-3.2
Transportation	211.093	210.781	208.267	4.9	-1.3	-1.2
Private transportation	205.568	205.359	202.763	5.0	-1.4	-1.3
New and used motor vehicles ³	100.923	100.332	99.892	2.9	-1.0	-.4
New vehicles	136.656	136.960	137.176	3.3	.4	.2
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	96.702	96.944	97.104	3.3	.4	.2
New cars ⁴	136.416	136.585	136.683	4.1	.2	.1
Used cars and trucks	153.679	151.324	150.110	4.6	-2.3	-.8
Motor fuel	298.863	298.800	288.899	9.6	-3.3	-3.3
Gasoline (all types)	297.697	296.823	286.959	9.1	-3.6	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	296.347	295.665	285.998	9.2	-3.5	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	326.800	324.833	313.300	8.6	-4.1	-3.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	289.782	288.929	279.601	8.7	-3.5	-3.2
Medical care	402.824	403.982	404.215	3.5	.3	.1
Medical care commodities	323.996	325.066	326.097	3.7	.6	.3
Medical care services	428.974	430.148	430.036	3.4	.2	.0
Professional services	362.713	362.601	362.747	2.0	.0	.0
Recreation ³	113.708	113.891	115.269	.4	1.4	1.2
Education and communication ³	134.473	134.543	134.477	1.6	.0	.0
Other goods and services	371.637	374.236	376.960	1.9	1.4	.7
Commodity and service group						
All items	215.653	215.614	215.173	2.8	-.2	-.2
Commodities	181.141	180.961	179.725	4.3	-.8	-.7
Commodities less food and beverages	158.557	158.349	156.522	4.2	-1.3	-1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	206.880	207.037	203.383	5.6	-1.7	-1.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	262.594	263.147	259.676	5.6	-1.1	-1.3
Durables	110.988	110.468	110.301	2.0	-.6	-.2
Services	251.688	251.795	252.183	1.7	.2	.2
Rent of shelter ²	236.830	236.975	237.239	1.5	.2	.1
Transportation services	272.995	272.999	272.220	1.7	-.3	-.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011
Commodity and service group						
Other services	304.983	305.998	308.232	1.6	1.1	0.7
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	206.699	206.611	206.145	2.8	-.3	-.2
All items less food	214.153	214.133	213.570	2.5	-.3	-.3
All items less shelter	212.604	212.498	211.790	3.4	-.4	-.3
Commodities less food	161.013	160.832	159.078	4.2	-1.2	-1.1
Nondurables	216.597	216.640	214.789	5.1	-.8	-.9
Nondurables less food	208.162	208.352	204.966	5.5	-1.5	-1.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	258.552	259.117	256.064	5.5	-1.0	-1.2
Services less rent of shelter ²	282.600	282.668	283.224	1.9	.2	.2
Services less medical care services	238.233	238.275	238.688	1.5	.2	.2
Energy	230.575	229.526	224.764	5.9	-2.5	-2.1
All items less energy	216.494	216.560	216.567	2.5	.0	.0
All items less food and energy	215.743	215.850	215.798	2.1	.0	.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.414	146.194	145.451	2.9	-.7	-.5
Energy commodities	297.891	297.972	288.297	9.6	-3.2	-3.2
Services less energy services	260.958	261.310	261.784	1.8	.3	.2

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is 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.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011
Expenditure category						
All items	212.038	211.969	211.459	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	342.913	342.801	341.977	-	-	-
Food and beverages	225.062	224.975	225.358	4.8	.1	.2
Food	224.703	224.514	224.866	4.8	.1	.2
Food at home	220.881	220.237	220.413	6.2	-2	.1
Food away from home	230.982	231.500	232.128	2.9	.5	.3
Alcoholic beverages	229.682	230.803	231.556	4.5	.8	.3
Housing	194.934	194.869	194.978	1.5	.0	.1
Shelter	220.494	220.790	221.118	1.5	.3	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	227.239	227.799	228.337	1.9	.5	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	219.058	219.525	219.911	1.4	.4	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	219.057	219.527	219.916	1.4	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities	206.108	204.417	203.872	1.7	-1.1	-3
Household energy	177.321	175.402	174.771	1.3	-1.4	-4
Energy services ¹	180.844	178.609	178.097	.9	-1.5	-3
Electricity ¹	182.910	179.940	180.030	3.6	-1.6	.1
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	170.001	169.408	167.634	-4.8	-1.4	-1.0
Household furnishings and operations	117.661	117.619	117.478	1.3	-2	-1
Apparel	119.100	118.772	115.909	6.8	-2.7	-2.4
Transportation	212.495	212.048	209.269	5.2	-1.5	-1.3
Private transportation	208.991	208.592	205.792	5.3	-1.5	-1.3
New and used motor vehicles ³	101.431	100.698	100.255	3.4	-1.2	-4
New vehicles	140.043	140.404	140.613	3.4	.4	.1
Used cars and trucks	154.701	152.314	151.090	4.5	-2.3	-8
Motor fuel	299.749	299.648	289.551	9.6	-3.4	-3.4
Gasoline (all types)	298.519	297.605	287.538	9.0	-3.7	-3.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	296.964	296.266	286.413	9.2	-3.6	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	326.803	324.718	312.919	8.6	-4.2	-3.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	289.653	288.772	279.362	8.6	-3.6	-3.3
Medical care	406.174	407.440	407.704	3.7	.4	.1
Medical care commodities	318.212	319.282	320.320	4.0	.7	.3
Medical care services	433.479	434.796	434.714	3.6	.3	.0
Professional services	363.881	363.742	363.904	2.1	.0	.0
Recreation ³	110.566	110.534	111.607	1.2	.9	1.0
Education and communication ³	128.863	128.925	128.862	1.0	.0	.0
Other goods and services	406.425	408.684	411.732	2.1	1.3	.7
Commodity and service group						
All items	212.038	211.969	211.459	3.1	-.3	-.2
Commodities	184.709	184.479	183.230	4.8	-.8	-.7
Commodities less food and beverages	163.946	163.665	161.805	4.7	-1.3	-1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	217.957	218.065	214.367	6.0	-1.6	-1.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	278.656	279.049	274.874	5.8	-1.4	-1.5
Durables	112.895	112.301	112.039	2.7	-.8	-.2
Services	245.233	245.363	245.768	1.7	.2	.2
Rent of shelter ²	218.967	219.270	219.599	1.5	.3	.2
Transportation services	270.086	270.397	269.811	1.7	-.1	-.2
Other services	285.902	286.482	288.380	1.5	.9	.7
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	204.450	204.338	203.806	3.1	-.3	-.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less food	209.504	209.455	208.798	2.8	-0.3	-0.3
All items less shelter	211.409	211.217	210.423	3.7	-.5	-.4
Commodities less food	166.116	165.877	164.092	4.7	-1.2	-1.1
Nondurables	222.518	222.537	220.705	5.5	-.8	-.8
Nondurables less food	218.460	218.632	215.213	5.9	-1.5	-1.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	272.847	273.309	269.629	5.7	-1.2	-1.3
Services less rent of shelter ²	251.210	251.136	251.586	1.8	.1	.2
Services less medical care services	232.471	232.538	232.963	1.5	.2	.2
Energy	233.872	232.862	227.659	6.2	-2.7	-2.2
All items less energy	211.002	211.045	211.093	2.8	.0	.0
All items less food and energy	208.502	208.592	208.579	2.3	.0	.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.033	148.748	148.144	3.4	-.6	-.4
Energy commodities	299.441	299.479	289.604	9.5	-3.3	-3.3
Services less energy services	253.798	254.220	254.738	1.8	.4	.2

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a December 1984=100 base.

³ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

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