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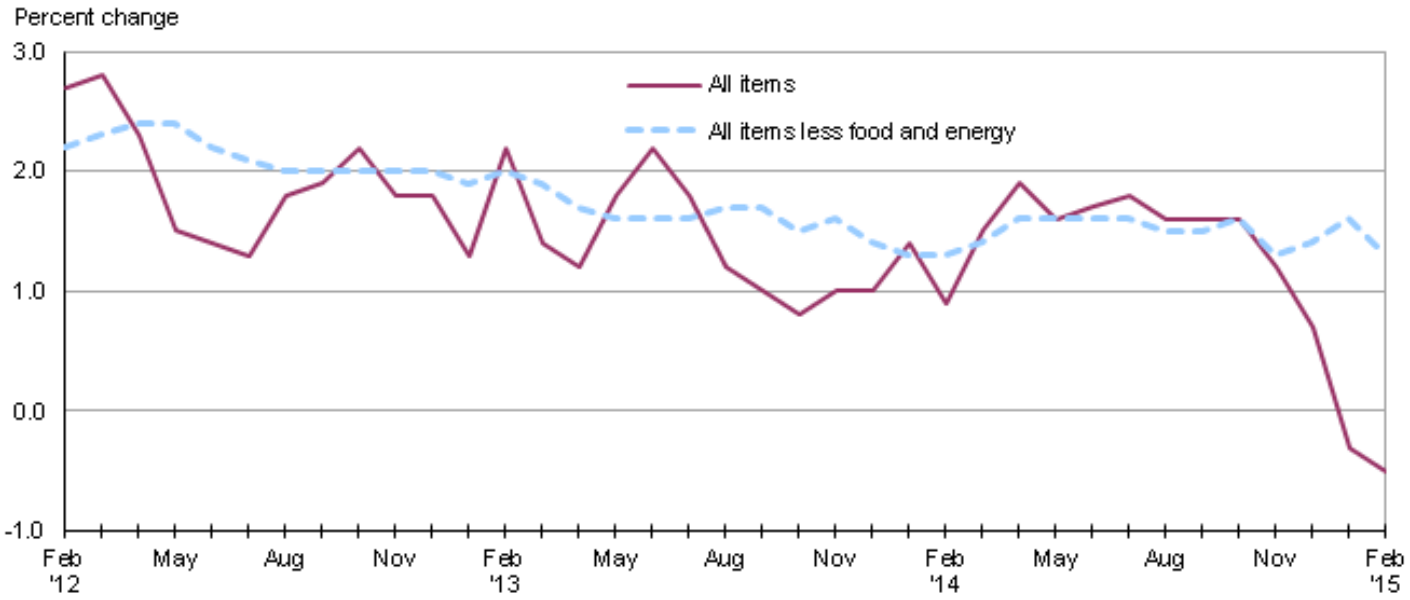
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – February 2015

Prices in the Midwest up 0.3 percent in February but 0.5 percent lower over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.3 percent in February, following four consecutive monthly declines, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly increase was largely attributable to an 11.3-percent advance in motor fuel prices. Overall, the energy index was 3.8 percent higher. The indexes for food (-0.1 percent) and all items less food and energy (0.1 percent) registered little movement over the month.

The CPI-U for the Midwest declined 0.5 percent from February 2014 to February 2015. Food prices increased 2.6 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 19.3 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.3 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, February 2012–February 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were little changed (-0.1 percent) in February. The index for food at home declined 0.3 percent while costs for food away from home rose 0.2 percent.

From February 2014 to February 2015, the index for food increased 2.6 percent. Rising costs for food at home (2.2 percent) and food away from home (3.3 percent) both contributed to the yearly advance.

Energy

The energy index turned up 3.8 percent in February following seven consecutive monthly declines and had the greatest upward impact on the all items index. Motor fuel prices rebounded 11.3 percent, the largest one-month gain since February 2013, after falling a total of 46.6 percent over the prior seven months. Costs for utility (piped) gas service and electricity were down 4.5 and 0.6 percent, respectively, over the month.

Despite the monthly increase, the index for energy fell 19.3 percent from February 2014 to February 2015, led by a drop of 33.1 percent in motor fuel prices. Costs for utility (piped) gas service were 9.4 percent lower over the year, while electricity prices advanced 5.0 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest registered little movement (0.1 percent) in February due to offsetting movements. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included shelter (0.1 percent) and new and used motor vehicles (0.5 percent). In contrast, medical care services (-0.5 percent) and recreation (-0.4 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent from February 2014 to February 2015. Higher costs for shelter (2.2 percent) and medical care (2.3 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 222.301 in February 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $222.30 in February 2015. 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.

CPI-W

In February, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 217.027, up 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W decreased 1.1 percent over the year.

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.5	1.9	0.6	2.8	0.1	1.3	0.5	1.4	-0.6	-0.3
February	0.3	2.2	0.2	2.7	1.1	2.2	0.6	0.9	0.3	-0.5
March	0.9	2.7	1.0	2.8	0.2	1.4	0.9	1.5		
April	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9		
May	0.6	3.8	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6		
June	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7		
July	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8		
August	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6		
September	0.2	3.9	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6		
October	-0.6	3.3	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6		
November	0.0	3.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	1.2		
December	-0.2	2.8	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	0.7		

The March 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 17, 2015.

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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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.

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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-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	222.821	221.545	222.301	-0.5	-0.2	0.3
All items (December 1977=100)	362.542	360.466	361.696			
Food and beverages	238.848	239.433	239.275	2.5	0.2	-0.1
Food	238.502	239.148	238.916	2.6	0.2	-0.1
Food at home	230.585	231.378	230.747	2.2	0.1	-0.3
Food away from home	251.640	252.035	252.483	3.3	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	241.346	240.980	241.966	1.3	0.3	0.4
Housing	210.686	211.328	211.179	1.4	0.2	-0.1
Shelter	245.502	246.573	246.874	2.2	0.6	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	244.632	244.939	245.410	2.6	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	249.958	250.385	250.690	1.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	249.951	250.378	250.685	1.8	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities	218.569	217.721	215.005	-1.0	-1.6	-1.2
Household energy	184.385	182.922	179.695	-2.3	-2.5	-1.8
Energy services [1]	190.767	189.470	186.000	0.0	-2.5	-1.8
Electricity [1]	194.159	196.851	195.755	5.0	0.8	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	176.334	167.872	160.257	-9.4	-9.1	-4.5
Household furnishings and operations	115.787	116.099	116.183	-1.3	0.3	0.1
Apparel	118.655	115.993	116.338	-2.7	-2.0	0.3
Transportation	196.890	186.659	192.031	-10.0	-2.5	2.9
Private transportation	191.399	180.875	186.370	-10.5	-2.6	3.0
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.346	98.024	98.552	-0.3	0.2	0.5
New vehicles	139.677	139.278	140.017	1.0	0.2	0.5
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	98.806	98.557	99.092	1.1	0.3	0.5
New cars [4]	136.115	136.062	136.720	1.0	0.4	0.5
Used cars and trucks	142.324	141.597	143.466	-3.2	0.8	1.3
Motor fuel	224.340	179.847	200.255	-33.1	-10.7	11.3
Gasoline (all types)	222.214	178.034	198.686	-33.1	-10.6	11.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	218.865	174.164	194.779	-33.8	-11.0	11.8
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	247.863	203.169	228.057	-31.0	-8.0	12.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	229.751	190.240	208.943	-29.3	-9.1	9.8
Medical Care	445.585	448.542	447.300	2.3	0.4	-0.3
Medical care commodities	361.396	363.130	365.206	4.4	1.1	0.6
Medical care services	473.715	477.121	474.584	1.7	0.2	-0.5
Professional services	386.698	389.035	385.706	0.6	-0.3	-0.9
Recreation [3]	116.968	117.892	117.470	0.1	0.4	-0.4
Education and communication [3]	139.531	139.651	139.657	0.6	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	394.717	398.280	397.738	1.2	0.8	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	222.821	221.545	222.301	-0.5	-0.2	0.3
Commodities	178.370	174.605	176.435	-4.0	-1.1	1.0
Commodities less food & beverages	148.847	143.337	145.962	-8.1	-1.9	1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	191.442	179.848	184.760	-12.2	-3.5	2.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	239.170	221.800	229.659	-14.8	-4.0	3.5
Durables	106.551	106.515	107.062	-1.3	0.5	0.5
Services	268.852	270.031	269.730	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	252.083	253.195	253.509	2.2	0.6	0.1

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 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Transportation services	289.221	290.298	290.801	2.8	0.5	0.2
Other services	324.173	326.324	325.980	1.3	0.6	-0.1
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	212.278	210.802	211.653	-0.8	-0.3	0.4
All items less food	220.172	218.584	219.501	-1.1	-0.3	0.4
All items less shelter	216.928	214.755	215.691	-1.7	-0.6	0.4
Commodities less food	151.808	146.403	148.998	-7.7	-1.9	1.8
Nondurables	214.935	209.039	211.580	-4.9	-1.6	1.2
Nondurables less food	194.133	183.107	187.821	-11.4	-3.3	2.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	238.109	222.209	229.469	-13.7	-3.6	3.3
Services less rent of shelter [2]	302.904	304.224	303.202	1.6	0.1	-0.3
Services less medical care services	253.549	254.568	254.424	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Energy	202.495	182.372	189.377	-19.3	-6.5	3.8
All items less energy	227.440	228.107	228.223	1.5	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy	226.116	226.789	226.969	1.3	0.4	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	145.572	145.105	145.475	-0.7	-0.1	0.3
Energy commodities	225.032	181.925	201.538	-33.2	-10.4	10.8
Services less energy services	279.085	280.543	280.589	2.0	0.5	0.0

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) 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.
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. Data not seasonally adjusted.

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-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	217.963	216.078	217.027	-1.1	-0.4	0.4
All items (December 1977=100)	352.495	349.446	350.981			
Food and beverages	239.338	239.991	239.666	2.6	0.1	-0.1
Food	239.080	239.768	239.385	2.7	0.1	-0.2
Food at home	231.515	232.308	231.542	2.4	0.0	-0.3
Food away from home	252.648	253.129	253.490	3.4	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	241.812	241.893	242.511	1.0	0.3	0.3
Housing	206.164	206.640	206.414	1.3	0.1	-0.1
Shelter	235.306	236.119	236.406	2.2	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	245.286	245.595	246.060	2.6	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	232.969	233.400	233.691	1.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	232.975	233.407	233.700	1.8	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities	219.178	218.536	215.810	-0.8	-1.5	-1.2
Household energy	184.674	183.411	180.209	-2.0	-2.4	-1.7
Energy services [1]	189.589	188.456	185.079	0.0	-2.4	-1.8
Electricity [1]	192.669	195.526	194.393	4.9	0.9	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	177.632	168.633	160.916	-9.9	-9.4	-4.6
Household furnishings and operations	114.258	114.507	114.487	-1.7	0.2	0.0
Apparel	117.288	114.597	114.419	-2.2	-2.4	-0.2
Transportation	194.759	183.096	189.218	-11.7	-2.8	3.3
Private transportation	191.321	179.522	185.670	-12.0	-3.0	3.4
New and used motor vehicles [3]	97.870	97.498	98.217	-1.1	0.4	0.7
New vehicles	143.063	142.641	143.328	0.8	0.2	0.5
Used cars and trucks	142.955	142.225	144.095	-3.2	0.8	1.3
Motor fuel	225.180	180.515	200.933	-33.1	-10.8	11.3
Gasoline (all types)	222.983	178.650	199.303	-33.1	-10.6	11.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	219.488	174.659	195.253	-33.8	-11.0	11.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	247.730	203.070	228.044	-31.0	-7.9	12.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	229.935	190.409	208.996	-29.3	-9.1	9.8
Medical Care	450.786	453.803	452.580	2.3	0.4	-0.3
Medical care commodities	355.343	356.996	358.683	4.3	0.9	0.5
Medical care services	480.157	483.667	481.278	1.7	0.2	-0.5
Professional services	387.930	390.217	387.210	0.7	-0.2	-0.8
Recreation [3]	113.750	114.132	114.057	0.1	0.3	-0.1
Education and communication [3]	131.794	131.951	131.885	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Other goods and services	437.049	441.322	440.161	1.0	0.7	-0.3
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	217.963	216.078	217.027	-1.1	-0.4	0.4
Commodities	181.034	176.612	178.621	-4.7	-1.3	1.1
Commodities less food & beverages	152.744	146.162	149.165	-9.3	-2.3	2.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	199.315	185.389	191.073	-13.9	-4.1	3.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	250.045	229.357	238.547	-16.7	-4.6	4.0
Durables	108.310	108.200	108.822	-1.5	0.5	0.6
Services	261.968	262.946	262.700	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	233.619	234.435	234.724	2.1	0.5	0.1
Transportation services	288.068	289.670	290.358	3.4	0.8	0.2
Other services	301.171	302.686	302.749	1.0	0.5	0.0

Note: 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 Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	209.019	206.957	207.984	-1.4	-0.5	0.5
All items less food	213.894	211.544	212.734	-1.9	-0.5	0.6
All items less shelter	214.145	211.281	212.475	-2.4	-0.8	0.6
Commodities less food	155.460	149.027	151.978	-8.9	-2.2	2.0
Nondurables	219.550	212.646	215.436	-5.7	-1.9	1.3
Nondurables less food	201.438	188.251	193.667	-13.0	-3.9	2.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	247.696	228.820	237.257	-15.5	-4.2	3.7
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	268.647	269.714	268.890	1.6	0.1	-0.3
Services less medical care services	247.483	248.308	248.187	1.9	0.3	0.0
Energy	202.801	181.292	189.124	-20.3	-6.7	4.3
All items less energy	221.576	222.101	222.207	1.5	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	218.259	218.751	218.960	1.2	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.382	147.884	148.147	-0.8	-0.2	0.2
Energy commodities	226.120	182.538	202.323	-33.2	-10.5	10.8
Services less energy services	271.540	272.796	272.963	2.0	0.5	0.1

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) 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.
(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
Regions defined as the four Census regions. Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
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