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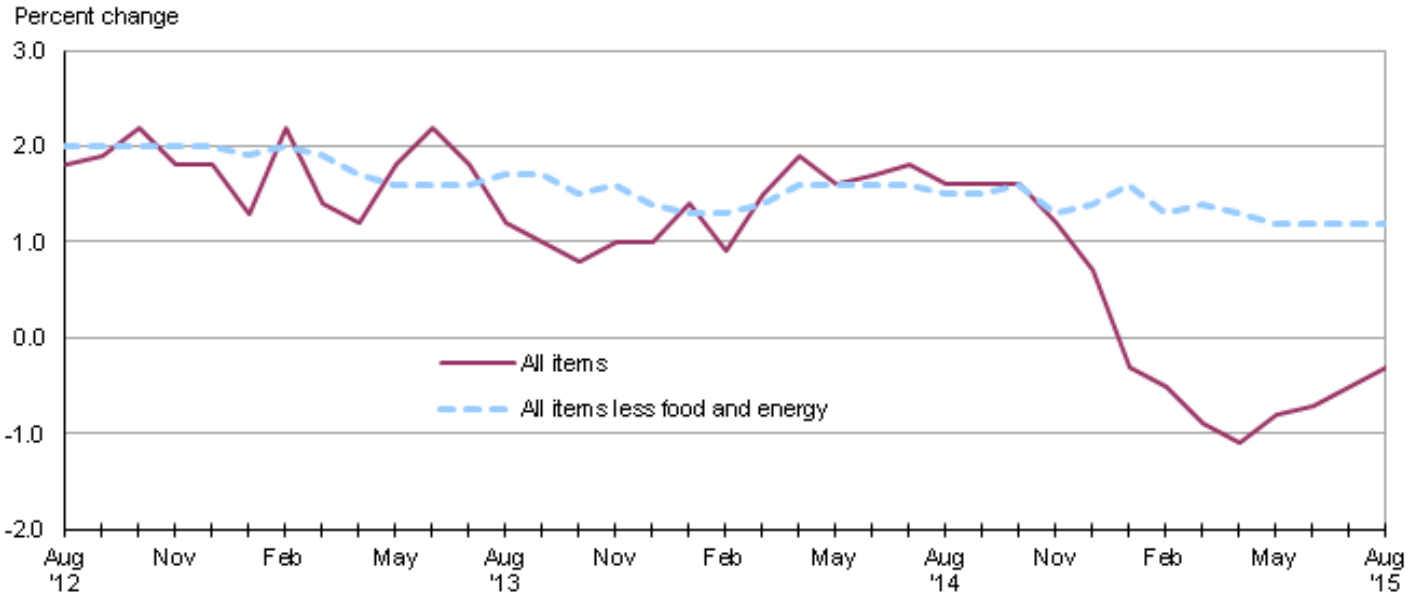
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – August 2015

Prices in the Midwest unchanged in August but 0.3 percent lower over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was unchanged in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Energy costs were 1.3 percent lower, food prices rose 0.3 percent, and the index for all items less food and energy was little changed (0.1 percent).

The CPI-U for the Midwest declined 0.3 percent from August 2014 to August 2015, the eighth consecutive month of over-the-year decline. Food prices increased 1.4 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 14.5 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.2 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest rose 0.3 percent in August. Higher costs for food at home and for food away from home, each up 0.3 percent, contributed to the monthly advance.

From August 2014 to August 2015, the index for food advanced 1.4 percent led by a 3.3-percent rise in costs for food away from home. Prices for food at home also contributed to the increase with a gain of 0.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index for the Midwest was down 1.3 percent in August, the second consecutive monthly decline. The monthly decrease in energy costs was largely attributable to a 2.4-percent decline in motor fuel prices. Costs for utility (piped) gas service were 0.4 percent lower and prices for electricity registered little movement (-0.1 percent).

The index for energy fell 14.5 percent from August 2014 to August 2015, led by a drop of 22.0 percent in motor fuel prices. The index for motor fuel has registered consecutive over-the-year declines since August 2014. Costs for utility (piped) gas service were 17.8 percent lower over the year, while electricity prices rose 1.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest was little changed (0.1 percent) in August. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included apparel (1.5 percent) and education and communication (0.4 percent). In contrast, household furnishings and operations (-0.3 percent) and new vehicles (-0.4 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month.

For the fourth consecutive month, the annual increase in the all items less food and energy index was 1.2 percent. Higher costs for shelter (2.2 percent) and medical care services (2.0 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 225.830 in August 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $225.83 in August 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 August, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 221.188, unchanged over the month. The CPI-W decreased 0.7 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	0.6	-0.9
April	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.1	-1.1
May	0.6	3.8	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8
June	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7
July	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5
August	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3
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 September 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, October 15, 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-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	225.946	225.853	225.830	-0.3	-0.1	0.0
All items (December 1977=100)	367.626	367.476	367.438			
Food and beverages	238.920	239.516	240.304	1.3	0.6	0.3
Food	238.608	239.266	240.035	1.4	0.6	0.3
Food at home	229.000	229.936	230.714	0.2	0.7	0.3
Food away from home	254.629	254.811	255.562	3.3	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	240.891	240.512	241.594	0.2	0.3	0.4
Housing	213.493	213.922	213.907	1.1	0.2	0.0
Shelter	249.241	249.676	249.789	2.2	0.2	0.0
Rent of primary residence [1]	247.299	247.740	248.212	2.8	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	252.331	252.685	253.239	2.1	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	252.330	252.682	253.235	2.1	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	221.159	221.893	221.787	-3.5	0.3	0.0
Household energy	185.200	185.829	185.517	-5.5	0.2	-0.2
Energy services [1]	193.394	194.343	194.009	-4.7	0.3	-0.2
Electricity [1]	213.888	215.625	215.456	1.4	0.7	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	147.891	147.374	146.756	-17.8	-0.8	-0.4
Household furnishings and operations	115.959	116.212	115.822	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3
Apparel	117.176	115.350	117.025	-3.4	-0.1	1.5
Transportation	206.151	204.646	202.612	-6.6	-1.7	-1.0
Private transportation	200.113	199.095	197.332	-6.8	-1.4	-0.9
New and used motor vehicles [3]	100.227	100.084	99.457	-0.8	-0.8	-0.6
New vehicles	140.386	139.249	138.725	0.1	-1.2	-0.4
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	99.344	98.631	98.265	0.3	-1.1	-0.4
New cars [4]	136.802	135.512	135.153	0.1	-1.2	-0.3
Used cars and trucks	151.403	151.545	151.385	-2.0	0.0	-0.1
Motor fuel	250.761	246.592	240.564	-22.0	-4.1	-2.4
Gasoline (all types)	249.457	245.326	239.397	-21.8	-4.0	-2.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	245.828	241.386	235.185	-22.5	-4.3	-2.6
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	279.299	275.548	268.532	-21.3	-3.9	-2.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	256.392	254.579	251.927	-17.6	-1.7	-1.0
Medical Care	451.389	451.331	451.284	2.1	0.0	0.0
Medical care commodities	367.148	366.016	364.941	2.4	-0.6	-0.3
Medical care services	479.474	479.840	480.199	2.0	0.2	0.1
Professional services	391.390	391.944	392.467	1.4	0.3	0.1
Recreation [3]	117.747	117.685	117.935	0.4	0.2	0.2
Education and communication [3]	139.146	139.346	139.846	-0.5	0.5	0.4
Other goods and services	401.123	401.493	402.830	2.1	0.4	0.3
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	225.946	225.853	225.830	-0.3	-0.1	0.0
Commodities	180.816	180.282	180.085	-3.0	-0.4	-0.1
Commodities less food & beverages	152.236	151.238	150.631	-5.7	-1.1	-0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages	197.117	195.228	194.414	-8.4	-1.4	-0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	249.450	247.507	245.099	-9.9	-1.7	-1.0
Durables	107.836	107.646	107.241	-1.1	-0.6	-0.4
Services	272.677	273.022	273.170	1.5	0.2	0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	255.972	256.423	256.541	2.2	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 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Transportation services	294.771	294.209	292.358	2.6	-0.8	-0.6
Other services	326.963	327.062	328.436	1.0	0.5	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	215.276	215.182	215.160	-0.6	-0.1	0.0
All items less food	223.788	223.573	223.421	-0.6	-0.2	-0.1
All items less shelter	219.859	219.567	219.492	-1.4	-0.2	0.0
Commodities less food	155.115	154.128	153.561	-5.5	-1.0	-0.4
Nondurables	217.991	217.267	217.206	-3.6	-0.4	0.0
Nondurables less food	199.498	197.685	196.967	-7.9	-1.3	-0.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	247.464	245.659	243.546	-9.1	-1.6	-0.9
Services less rent of shelter [2]	306.867	307.109	307.300	0.9	0.1	0.1
Services less medical care services	257.225	257.567	257.700	1.4	0.2	0.1
Energy	214.413	212.965	210.174	-14.5	-2.0	-1.3
All items less energy	229.688	229.735	229.998	1.3	0.1	0.1
All items less food and energy	228.768	228.702	228.873	1.2	0.0	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.266	145.704	145.827	-0.9	-0.3	0.1
Energy commodities	248.381	244.054	238.255	-22.1	-4.1	-2.4
Services less energy services	283.065	283.345	283.548	2.0	0.2	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 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-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	221.193	221.136	221.188	-0.7	0.0	0.0
All items (December 1977=100)	357.718	357.626	357.710			
Food and beverages	239.366	240.072	240.891	1.3	0.6	0.3
Food	239.125	239.885	240.695	1.4	0.7	0.3
Food at home	230.019	231.075	231.870	0.3	0.8	0.3
Food away from home	255.686	255.868	256.703	3.4	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	241.571	241.409	242.361	0.4	0.3	0.4
Housing	208.744	209.132	209.250	1.1	0.2	0.1
Shelter	238.455	238.856	239.166	2.3	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	247.934	248.371	248.871	2.8	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	235.262	235.562	236.105	2.2	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	235.272	235.570	236.114	2.2	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	222.303	223.019	222.878	-3.4	0.3	-0.1
Household energy	185.988	186.568	186.259	-5.3	0.1	-0.2
Energy services [1]	192.680	193.555	193.195	-4.6	0.3	-0.2
Electricity [1]	211.880	213.490	213.250	1.3	0.6	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	148.703	148.096	147.510	-18.0	-0.8	-0.4
Household furnishings and operations	114.552	114.661	114.283	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3
Apparel	115.795	114.283	116.270	-2.1	0.4	1.7
Transportation	205.074	203.697	201.850	-7.6	-1.6	-0.9
Private transportation	201.396	200.232	198.468	-7.8	-1.5	-0.9
New and used motor vehicles [3]	100.765	100.590	100.144	-1.0	-0.6	-0.4
New vehicles	143.681	142.441	141.956	0.0	-1.2	-0.3
Used cars and trucks	152.053	152.193	152.033	-2.0	0.0	-0.1
Motor fuel	251.400	247.174	241.344	-21.9	-4.0	-2.4
Gasoline (all types)	249.981	245.798	240.066	-21.8	-4.0	-2.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	246.177	241.675	235.690	-22.4	-4.3	-2.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	278.998	275.352	268.344	-21.4	-3.8	-2.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	256.222	254.381	252.010	-17.5	-1.6	-0.9
Medical Care	456.576	456.457	456.326	2.1	-0.1	0.0
Medical care commodities	361.090	359.858	358.749	2.4	-0.6	-0.3
Medical care services	485.839	486.179	486.451	1.9	0.1	0.1
Professional services	392.764	393.314	393.791	1.4	0.3	0.1
Recreation [3]	113.930	113.867	114.046	0.0	0.1	0.2
Education and communication [3]	131.196	131.317	131.790	-1.0	0.5	0.4
Other goods and services	444.842	446.645	448.433	2.7	0.8	0.4
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	221.193	221.136	221.188	-0.7	0.0	0.0
Commodities	184.171	183.710	183.529	-3.3	-0.3	-0.1
Commodities less food & beverages	157.197	156.230	155.614	-6.2	-1.0	-0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages	206.411	204.617	203.702	-9.2	-1.3	-0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	262.262	260.277	257.652	-10.8	-1.8	-1.0
Durables	110.370	110.139	109.797	-1.2	-0.5	-0.3
Services	265.334	265.736	266.053	1.5	0.3	0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	236.785	237.187	237.499	2.3	0.3	0.1
Transportation services	292.842	293.227	292.421	3.3	-0.1	-0.3
Other services	302.888	302.894	304.140	0.5	0.4	0.4

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-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	212.149	212.095	212.153	-0.9	0.0	0.0
All items less food	217.697	217.492	217.407	-1.1	-0.1	0.0
All items less shelter	217.439	217.218	217.179	-1.8	-0.1	0.0
Commodities less food	159.808	158.858	158.280	-6.0	-1.0	-0.4
Nondurables	223.243	222.655	222.578	-3.9	-0.3	0.0
Nondurables less food	208.147	206.439	205.621	-8.6	-1.2	-0.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	258.826	257.002	254.683	-10.1	-1.6	-0.9
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	271.914	272.277	272.569	0.6	0.2	0.1
Services less medical care services	250.691	251.093	251.410	1.4	0.3	0.1
Energy	215.731	214.066	211.181	-15.0	-2.1	-1.3
All items less energy	223.633	223.774	224.189	1.3	0.2	0.2
All items less food and energy	220.743	220.754	221.087	1.3	0.2	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.666	149.253	149.490	-0.6	-0.1	0.2
Energy commodities	249.830	245.462	239.832	-22.0	-4.0	-2.3
Services less energy services	274.943	275.282	275.688	2.1	0.3	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.
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