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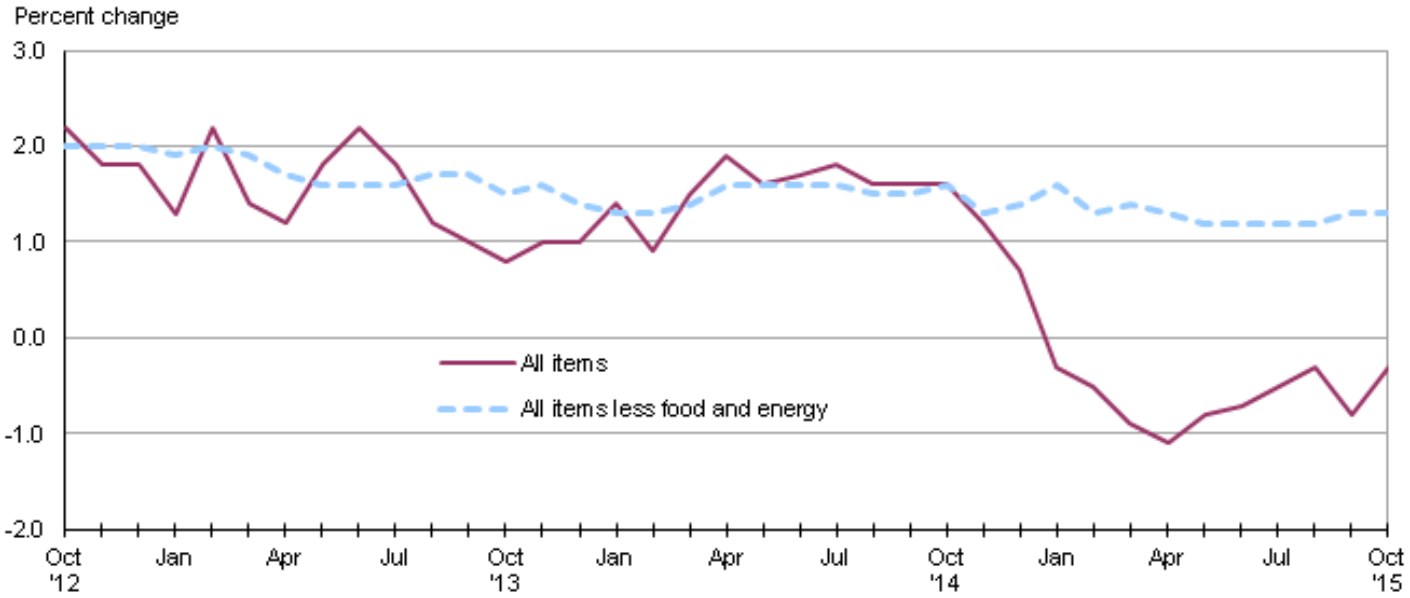
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – October 2015

Prices in the Midwest little changed in October and 0.3 percent lower over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was little changed in October (-0.1 percent), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Lower costs for electricity (-5.9 percent) had the largest downward impact on the index while higher prices for medical care services (0.6 percent) and apparel (1.0 percent) provided the largest offsetting influences. Overall, energy costs were 1.8 percent lower over the month. Food prices were down 0.2 percent while the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.2 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The CPI-U for the Midwest decreased 0.3 percent from October 2014 to October 2015, the tenth consecutive month of over-the-year decline. (See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices increased 1.0 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 15.3 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.3 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest decreased 0.2 percent in October. The index for food at home declined 0.3 percent and costs for food away from home registered little movement (0.1 percent).

From October 2014 to October 2015, the index for food rose 1.0 percent, the smallest over-the-year increase since December 2013. Rising costs for food away from home (2.8 percent) were responsible for the yearly advance. Prices for food at home were 0.2 percent lower over the year.

Energy

The energy index registered its fourth consecutive monthly decline, falling 1.8 percent in October, and had the greatest downward impact on the all items index. The decrease in energy costs was largely attributable to a 5.9-percent drop in electricity prices. Lower costs for utility (piped) gas service (-1.7 percent) also contributed to the monthly decline. In contrast, motor fuel prices turned up 1.1 percent in October after declining in the three previous months.

Energy prices fell 15.3 percent from October 2014 to October 2015, led by a drop of 23.4 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 16.5 percent lower over the year, while electricity prices were up 0.6 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest rose 0.2 percent in October. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included medical care services (0.6 percent) and apparel (1.0 percent). In contrast, recreation (-0.6 percent) and used cars and trucks (-1.8 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.3 percent from October 2014 to October 2015. Higher costs for shelter (2.2 percent) and medical care services (2.6 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 225.050 in October 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $225.05 in October 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 October, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 219.875, down 0.1 percent over the month. The CPI-W decreased 0.8 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

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

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
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	-0.3	-0.8
October	-0.6	3.3	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.3
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 November 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, December 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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	225.830	225.184	225.050	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	367.438	366.386	366.170			
Food and beverages	240.304	241.353	241.006	1.0	0.3	-0.1
Food	240.035	241.100	240.695	1.0	0.3	-0.2
Food at home	230.714	231.872	231.063	-0.2	0.2	-0.3
Food away from home	255.562	256.469	256.751	2.8	0.5	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	241.594	242.382	242.937	0.6	0.6	0.2
Housing	213.907	213.827	212.917	1.1	-0.5	-0.4
Shelter	249.789	250.435	250.776	2.2	0.4	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	248.212	249.093	249.885	2.6	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	253.239	253.970	254.346	2.0	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	253.235	253.963	254.339	2.0	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities	221.787	217.460	209.651	-3.6	-5.5	-3.6
Household energy	185.517	180.872	172.729	-5.8	-6.9	-4.5
Energy services [1]	194.009	189.089	180.075	-4.9	-7.2	-4.8
Electricity [1]	215.456	209.357	196.961	0.6	-8.6	-5.9
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	146.756	144.182	141.681	-16.5	-3.5	-1.7
Household furnishings and operations	115.822	116.226	115.743	-0.9	-0.1	-0.4
Apparel	117.025	121.530	122.731	-2.7	4.9	1.0
Transportation	202.612	195.985	196.789	-6.8	-2.9	0.4
Private transportation	197.332	190.680	191.149	-7.1	-3.1	0.2
New and used motor vehicles [3]	99.457	98.911	98.505	-0.6	-1.0	-0.4
New vehicles	138.725	138.849	139.115	0.2	0.3	0.2
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	98.265	98.363	98.543	0.3	0.3	0.2
New cars [4]	135.153	135.590	135.531	0.4	0.3	0.0
Used cars and trucks	151.385	148.968	146.290	-1.6	-3.4	-1.8
Motor fuel	240.564	214.907	217.297	-23.4	-9.7	1.1
Gasoline (all types)	239.397	213.670	216.014	-23.3	-9.8	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	235.185	208.627	210.759	-24.3	-10.4	1.0
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	268.532	244.167	248.063	-21.0	-7.6	1.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	251.927	231.993	235.064	-17.2	-6.7	1.3
Medical Care	451.284	451.793	454.680	2.4	0.8	0.6
Medical care commodities	364.941	363.415	366.054	2.0	0.3	0.7
Medical care services	480.199	481.504	484.457	2.6	0.9	0.6
Professional services	392.467	393.729	392.671	1.5	0.1	-0.3
Recreation [3]	117.935	118.002	117.320	0.1	-0.5	-0.6
Education and communication [3]	139.846	140.481	140.687	0.3	0.6	0.1
Other goods and services	402.830	402.044	402.313	1.9	-0.1	0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	225.830	225.184	225.050	-0.3	-0.3	-0.1
Commodities	180.085	178.825	178.837	-3.1	-0.7	0.0
Commodities less food & beverages	150.631	148.428	148.592	-5.8	-1.4	0.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	194.414	189.947	191.141	-8.4	-1.7	0.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	245.099	234.876	236.073	-10.1	-3.7	0.5
Durables	107.241	107.081	106.346	-1.3	-0.8	-0.7
Services	273.170	273.126	272.847	1.6	-0.1	-0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	256.541	257.223	257.566	2.2	0.4	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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Transportation services	292.358	291.045	293.796	1.9	0.5	0.9
Other services	328.436	329.082	329.079	1.3	0.2	0.0
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	215.160	214.459	214.182	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1
All items less food	223.421	222.496	222.407	-0.6	-0.5	0.0
All items less shelter	219.492	218.352	218.039	-1.4	-0.7	-0.1
Commodities less food	153.561	151.424	151.598	-5.5	-1.3	0.1
Nondurables	217.206	215.325	215.796	-3.7	-0.6	0.2
Nondurables less food	196.967	192.767	193.929	-7.9	-1.5	0.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	243.546	234.270	235.409	-9.3	-3.3	0.5
Services less rent of shelter [2]	307.300	306.421	305.415	1.0	-0.6	-0.3
Services less medical care services	257.700	257.562	257.059	1.5	-0.2	-0.2
Energy	210.174	196.400	192.789	-15.3	-8.3	-1.8
All items less energy	229.998	230.708	230.934	1.2	0.4	0.1
All items less food and energy	228.873	229.518	229.863	1.3	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	145.827	146.679	146.534	-0.9	0.5	-0.1
Energy commodities	238.255	213.486	216.065	-23.5	-9.3	1.2
Services less energy services	283.548	284.040	284.720	2.1	0.4	0.2

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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	221.188	220.121	219.875	-0.8	-0.6	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	357.710	355.985	355.586			
Food and beverages	240.891	241.973	241.461	0.9	0.2	-0.2
Food	240.695	241.787	241.190	0.9	0.2	-0.2
Food at home	231.870	233.053	232.007	-0.2	0.1	-0.4
Food away from home	256.703	257.612	257.892	2.9	0.5	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	242.361	243.275	244.122	1.0	0.7	0.3
Housing	209.250	209.047	208.058	1.0	-0.6	-0.5
Shelter	239.166	239.771	240.194	2.3	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	248.871	249.727	250.509	2.6	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	236.105	236.773	237.115	2.0	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	236.114	236.781	237.123	2.0	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities	222.878	218.399	210.660	-3.4	-5.5	-3.5
Household energy	186.259	181.494	173.482	-5.6	-6.9	-4.4
Energy services [1]	193.195	188.191	179.422	-4.7	-7.1	-4.7
Electricity [1]	213.250	207.186	195.380	0.5	-8.4	-5.7
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	147.510	144.758	142.275	-16.7	-3.5	-1.7
Household furnishings and operations	114.283	114.739	114.147	-1.0	-0.1	-0.5
Apparel	116.270	119.975	121.140	-2.6	4.2	1.0
Transportation	201.850	194.299	194.737	-7.9	-3.5	0.2
Private transportation	198.468	190.969	191.259	-8.1	-3.6	0.2
New and used motor vehicles [3]	100.144	99.407	98.690	-0.7	-1.5	-0.7
New vehicles	141.956	142.154	142.383	0.1	0.3	0.2
Used cars and trucks	152.033	149.617	146.942	-1.6	-3.3	-1.8
Motor fuel	241.344	215.580	218.046	-23.4	-9.7	1.1
Gasoline (all types)	240.066	214.259	216.666	-23.3	-9.7	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	235.690	209.055	211.233	-24.4	-10.4	1.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	268.344	243.984	248.076	-20.9	-7.6	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	252.010	232.058	235.222	-17.2	-6.7	1.4
Medical Care	456.326	456.862	460.010	2.4	0.8	0.7
Medical care commodities	358.749	357.267	359.927	1.9	0.3	0.7
Medical care services	486.451	487.803	491.082	2.6	1.0	0.7
Professional services	393.791	395.080	394.117	1.6	0.1	-0.2
Recreation [3]	114.046	114.143	113.510	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6
Education and communication [3]	131.790	132.213	132.471	0.0	0.5	0.2
Other goods and services	448.433	447.519	447.525	2.5	-0.2	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	221.188	220.121	219.875	-0.8	-0.6	-0.1
Commodities	183.529	181.684	181.544	-3.6	-1.1	-0.1
Commodities less food & beverages	155.614	152.514	152.538	-6.4	-2.0	0.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	203.702	197.491	198.714	-9.4	-2.4	0.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	257.652	245.557	246.832	-11.2	-4.2	0.5
Durables	109.797	109.447	108.448	-1.4	-1.2	-0.9
Services	266.053	265.860	265.490	1.5	-0.2	-0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	237.499	238.116	238.531	2.2	0.4	0.2
Transportation services	292.421	291.313	293.698	2.4	0.4	0.8
Other services	304.140	304.454	304.687	0.9	0.2	0.1

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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	212.153	211.030	210.659	-1.0	-0.7	-0.2
All items less food	217.407	215.950	215.767	-1.1	-0.8	-0.1
All items less shelter	217.179	215.507	215.019	-1.9	-1.0	-0.2
Commodities less food	158.280	155.271	155.317	-6.2	-1.9	0.0
Nondurables	222.578	219.883	220.269	-4.2	-1.0	0.2
Nondurables less food	205.621	199.786	200.989	-8.8	-2.3	0.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	254.683	243.718	244.949	-10.3	-3.8	0.5
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	272.569	271.482	270.265	0.8	-0.8	-0.4
Services less medical care services	251.410	251.130	250.552	1.4	-0.3	-0.2
Energy	211.181	196.639	193.549	-15.9	-8.3	-1.6
All items less energy	224.189	224.780	224.883	1.2	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	221.087	221.573	221.823	1.2	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.490	150.033	149.653	-0.8	0.1	-0.3
Energy commodities	239.832	214.743	217.373	-23.5	-9.4	1.2
Services less energy services	275.688	276.129	276.865	2.1	0.4	0.3

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