NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 **16-973-KAN**

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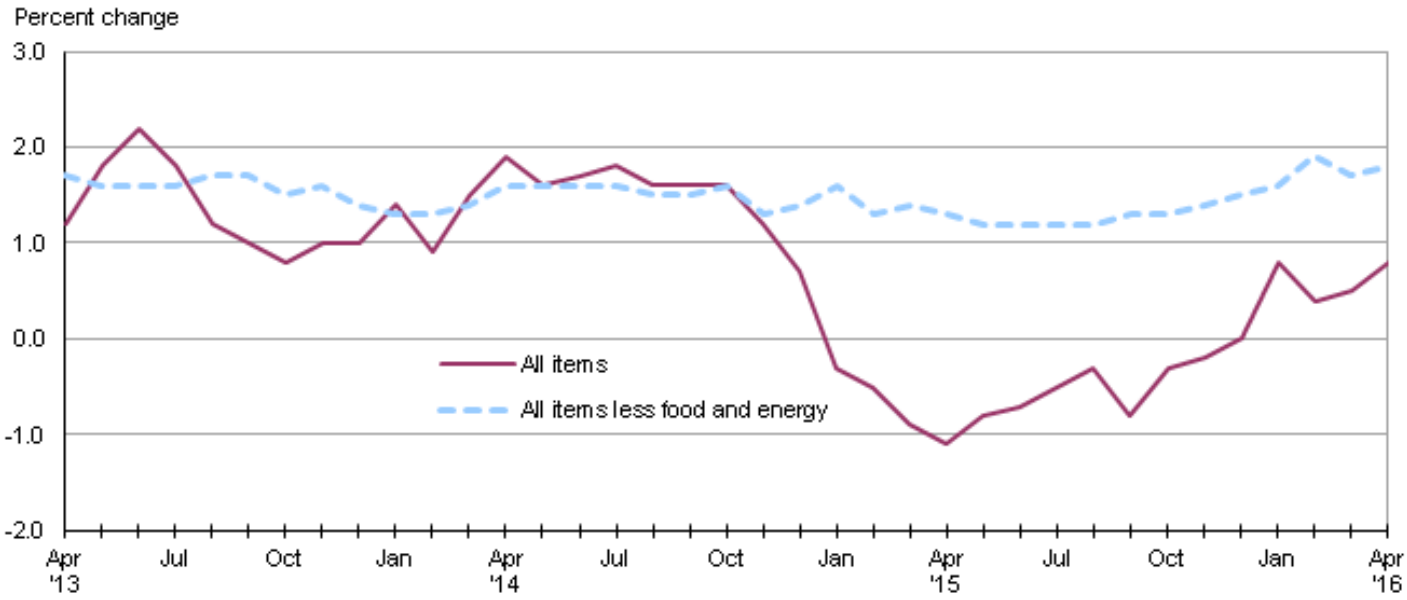
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – April 2016

Prices in the Midwest up 0.4 percent in April and 0.8 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.4 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly advance was largely attributable to increases in the indexes for all items less food and energy (0.3 percent) and energy (2.6 percent). Food prices, up 0.4 percent, also contributed to the increase. (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 advanced 0.8 percent from April 2015 to April 2016. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 8.2 percent, but prices for food were up 0.8 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.8 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, April 2013–April 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest turned up 0.4 percent in April. The index for food at home rose 0.4 percent and costs for food away from home were 0.5 percent higher.

From April 2015 to April 2016, the index for food advanced 0.8 percent. Rising costs for food away from home (2.5 percent) were responsible for the yearly advance. Prices for food at home registered their seventh consecutive over-the-year decline, down 0.2 percent since April 2015.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.6 percent in April following an increase of 7.7 percent in March. Higher motor fuel prices were largely responsible for both increases, rising 7.7 percent in April after registering a 20.2-percent jump in the prior month. Moderating the overall increase in the energy index, electricity prices declined 0.3 percent in April and costs for utility (piped) gas service were down 3.7 percent.

Despite the recent monthly advances, energy prices decreased 8.2 percent from April 2015 to April 2016. Prices for motor fuel and utility (piped) gas service were down 13.1 and 10.5 percent, respectively. Costs for electricity were little changed (0.1 percent) over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest rose 0.3 percent in April. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included shelter (0.2 percent), recreation (0.5 percent), used cars and trucks (1.0 percent), and education and communication (0.3 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.8 percent from April 2015 to April 2016. A 2.8-percent rise in shelter costs led the advance. Prices for medical care services had the next largest upward impact with a 3.0-percent increase.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 225.609 in April 2016. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $225.61 in April 2016.

CPI-W

In April, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 219.816, up 0.5 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 0.5 percent over the year.

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.6	2.8	0.1	1.3	0.5	1.4	-0.6	-0.3	0.3	0.8
February	0.2	2.7	1.1	2.2	0.6	0.9	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.4
March	1.0	2.8	0.2	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.6	-0.9	0.6	0.5
April	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.1	-1.1	0.4	0.8
May	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8		
June	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7		
July	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5		
August	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3		
September	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.8		
October	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.3		
November	-0.4	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.2		
December	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0		

The May 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 16, 2016.

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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	223.196	224.621	225.609	0.8	1.1	0.4
All items (December 1977=100)	363.153	365.470	367.079			
Food and beverages	240.839	240.000	240.898	0.8	0.0	0.4
Food	240.425	239.494	240.489	0.8	0.0	0.4
Food at home	229.779	227.791	228.662	-0.2	-0.5	0.4
Food away from home	258.214	259.091	260.295	2.5	0.8	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	244.264	244.757	244.237	0.6	0.0	-0.2
Housing	214.511	214.948	214.974	1.7	0.2	0.0
Shelter	253.512	254.079	254.693	2.8	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	252.375	252.535	252.983	2.8	0.2	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	256.960	257.322	257.889	2.6	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	256.948	257.309	257.877	2.6	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	209.027	209.184	207.060	-1.8	-0.9	-1.0
Household energy	171.352	170.820	168.634	-3.6	-1.6	-1.3
Energy services [1]	178.723	178.097	175.795	-3.0	-1.6	-1.3
Electricity [1]	196.735	196.855	196.351	0.1	-0.2	-0.3
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	138.218	136.418	131.335	-10.5	-5.0	-3.7
Household furnishings and operations	115.264	115.511	115.053	-1.4	-0.2	-0.4
Apparel	117.623	117.964	118.214	-0.6	0.5	0.2
Transportation	182.112	188.629	192.163	-2.9	5.5	1.9
Private transportation	176.285	182.902	185.942	-3.2	5.5	1.7
New and used motor vehicles [3]	99.063	99.422	99.447	-0.7	0.4	0.0
New vehicles	141.195	140.696	139.816	-0.4	-1.0	-0.6
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	99.911	99.453	98.824	-0.6	-1.1	-0.6
New cars [4]	137.367	136.600	135.719	-1.0	-1.2	-0.6
Used cars and trucks	144.399	146.614	148.092	-1.3	2.6	1.0
Motor fuel	146.354	175.857	189.416	-13.1	29.4	7.7
Gasoline (all types)	145.296	174.991	188.601	-12.9	29.8	7.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	139.779	169.684	183.205	-13.9	31.1	8.0
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	174.959	206.842	220.484	-10.0	26.0	6.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	171.411	196.600	210.119	-6.9	22.6	6.9
Medical Care	462.960	464.165	465.161	2.8	0.5	0.2
Medical care commodities	375.338	375.463	376.989	2.3	0.4	0.4
Medical care services	492.328	493.913	494.715	3.0	0.5	0.2
Professional services	399.648	400.045	401.109	2.2	0.4	0.3
Recreation [3]	117.977	118.423	119.005	1.1	0.9	0.5
Education and communication [3]	140.329	140.305	140.773	0.7	0.3	0.3
Other goods and services	405.629	406.810	406.716	1.9	0.3	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	223.196	224.621	225.609	0.8	1.1	0.4
Commodities	172.721	174.833	176.218	-1.3	2.0	0.8
Commodities less food & beverages	140.158	143.386	144.924	-2.8	3.4	1.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	173.387	180.382	183.774	-3.4	6.0	1.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	210.121	221.418	226.842	-4.3	8.0	2.4
Durables	105.962	106.174	106.232	-1.7	0.3	0.1
Services	275.247	275.973	276.559	2.2	0.5	0.2
Rent of shelter [2]	260.370	260.998	261.666	2.8	0.5	0.3

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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Transportation services	295.789	296.699	299.813	2.2	1.4	1.0
Other services	330.888	332.058	332.868	1.8	0.6	0.2
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	211.847	213.282	214.271	0.6	1.1	0.5
All items less food	220.295	222.095	223.082	0.8	1.3	0.4
All items less shelter	214.473	216.216	217.348	0.0	1.3	0.5
Commodities less food	143.374	146.546	148.038	-2.7	3.3	1.0
Nondurables	206.289	209.582	211.801	-1.2	2.7	1.1
Nondurables less food	177.175	183.807	186.980	-3.2	5.5	1.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	211.880	222.168	227.040	-3.9	7.2	2.2
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	307.502	308.376	308.907	1.6	0.5	0.2
Services less medical care services	259.060	259.722	260.292	2.1	0.5	0.2
Energy	161.307	173.728	178.323	-8.2	10.5	2.6
All items less energy	232.074	232.431	233.076	1.6	0.4	0.3
All items less food and energy	231.263	231.855	232.439	1.8	0.5	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	145.862	146.051	146.190	-0.5	0.2	0.1
Energy commodities	147.858	176.121	189.008	-13.3	27.8	7.3
Services less energy services	287.547	288.421	289.317	2.6	0.6	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 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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	217.002	218.761	219.816	0.5	1.3	0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	350.941	353.785	355.491			
Food and beverages	240.951	239.989	240.986	0.7	0.0	0.4
Food	240.570	239.513	240.589	0.7	0.0	0.4
Food at home	230.355	228.384	229.263	-0.4	-0.5	0.4
Food away from home	259.306	260.146	261.616	2.6	0.9	0.6
Alcoholic beverages	245.408	245.996	245.702	1.0	0.1	-0.1
Housing	209.482	209.859	209.764	1.6	0.1	0.0
Shelter	242.636	243.086	243.586	2.7	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence [1]	252.973	253.145	253.595	2.8	0.2	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	239.532	239.862	240.390	2.6	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	239.534	239.861	240.390	2.6	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	210.129	210.408	208.388	-1.7	-0.8	-1.0
Household energy	172.252	171.760	169.697	-3.4	-1.5	-1.2
Energy services [1]	178.226	177.673	175.511	-2.9	-1.5	-1.2
Electricity [1]	195.083	195.335	194.849	0.1	-0.1	-0.2
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	139.151	137.209	132.205	-10.3	-5.0	-3.6
Household furnishings and operations	113.594	113.835	113.064	-1.7	-0.5	-0.7
Apparel	115.258	115.538	115.787	-1.3	0.5	0.2
Transportation	177.526	185.173	188.984	-3.5	6.5	2.1
Private transportation	173.913	181.634	185.270	-3.7	6.5	2.0
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.841	99.477	99.696	-0.8	0.9	0.2
New vehicles	144.582	144.213	143.171	-0.4	-1.0	-0.7
Used cars and trucks	145.015	147.239	148.726	-1.3	2.6	1.0
Motor fuel	146.423	176.242	190.071	-13.0	29.8	7.8
Gasoline (all types)	145.317	175.295	189.154	-12.8	30.2	7.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	139.683	169.849	183.624	-13.8	31.5	8.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	174.560	206.631	220.449	-9.9	26.3	6.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	171.138	196.371	210.000	-6.9	22.7	6.9
Medical Care	468.582	469.981	470.969	2.9	0.5	0.2
Medical care commodities	369.033	369.153	370.457	2.3	0.4	0.4
Medical care services	499.356	501.198	502.064	3.2	0.5	0.2
Professional services	402.160	402.541	403.669	2.6	0.4	0.3
Recreation [3]	114.165	114.733	115.229	0.8	0.9	0.4
Education and communication [3]	132.209	132.292	132.651	0.5	0.3	0.3
Other goods and services	451.919	453.042	453.227	2.6	0.3	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	217.002	218.761	219.816	0.5	1.3	0.5
Commodities	173.990	176.830	178.547	-1.5	2.6	1.0
Commodities less food & beverages	142.150	146.399	148.346	-3.1	4.4	1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	176.450	185.478	189.862	-3.9	7.6	2.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	214.891	228.936	235.695	-4.7	9.7	3.0
Durables	107.992	108.512	108.573	-1.6	0.5	0.1
Services	267.765	268.419	268.798	2.1	0.4	0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	240.957	241.433	241.959	2.7	0.4	0.2
Transportation services	296.807	297.099	298.834	2.3	0.7	0.6
Other services	306.217	307.478	308.237	1.5	0.7	0.2

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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	207.359	209.132	210.189	0.3	1.4	0.5
All items less food	212.501	214.705	215.753	0.4	1.5	0.5
All items less shelter	210.225	212.470	213.734	-0.3	1.7	0.6
Commodities less food	145.173	149.361	151.268	-2.9	4.2	1.3
Nondurables	208.398	212.709	215.502	-1.4	3.4	1.3
Nondurables less food	179.937	188.549	192.702	-3.6	7.1	2.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	215.824	228.765	234.948	-4.2	8.9	2.7
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	272.155	272.941	273.127	1.5	0.4	0.1
Services less medical care services	252.456	253.036	253.382	2.0	0.4	0.1
Energy	159.565	173.126	178.439	-8.4	11.8	3.1
All items less energy	225.775	226.145	226.704	1.5	0.4	0.2
All items less food and energy	223.008	223.644	224.106	1.6	0.5	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.833	149.248	149.411	-0.4	0.4	0.1
Energy commodities	148.184	176.686	189.822	-13.2	28.1	7.4
Services less energy services	279.597	280.401	281.089	2.5	0.5	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 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.