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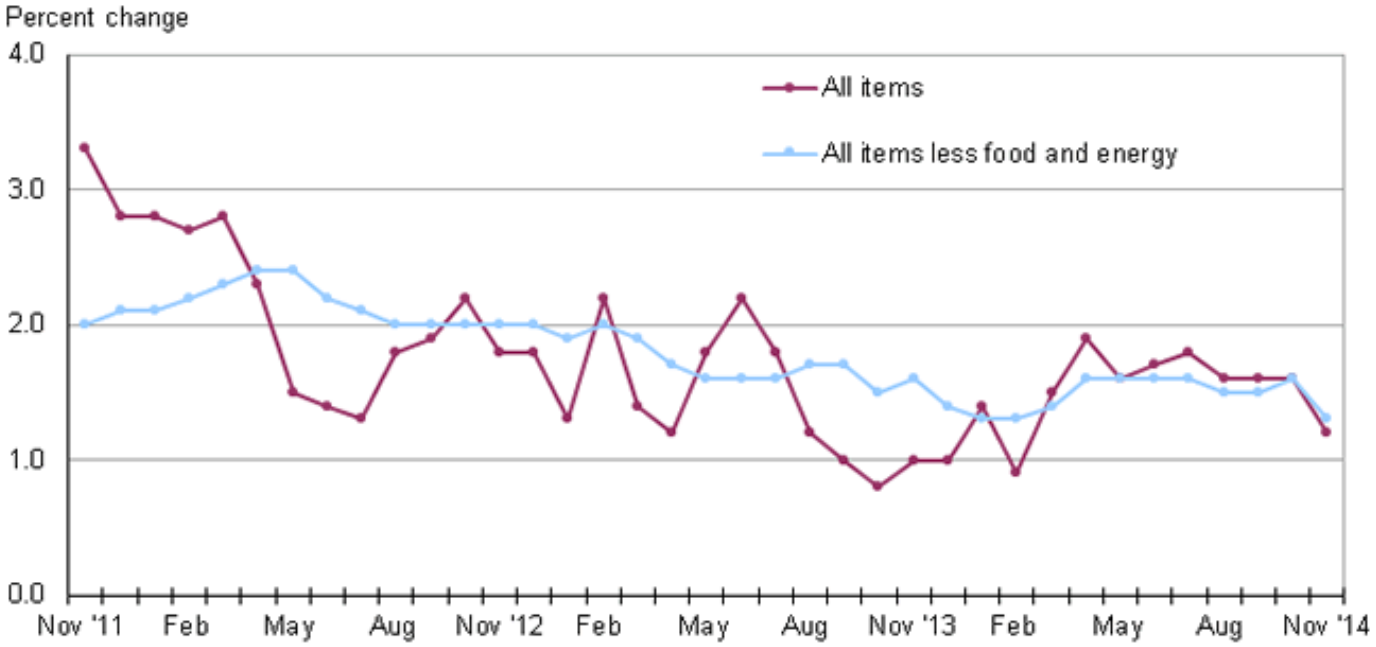
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – November 2014

Prices in the Midwest down 0.6 percent in November but 1.2 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was down 0.6 percent in November, following a decline of 0.5 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The monthly decrease was largely attributable to an 8.1-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Overall, the energy index declined 4.9 percent. The indexes for food and all items less food and energy each decreased 0.2 percent over the month.

The CPI-U for the Midwest advanced 1.2 percent from November 2013 to November 2014. Food prices increased 3.2 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, was down 2.9 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.3 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year change in consumer price indexes, Midwest region, November 2011–November 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were 0.2 percent lower in November. The index for food at home declined 0.7 percent, the largest one-month decrease since March 2009, while costs for food away from home rose 0.5 percent.

From November 2013 to November 2014, the index for food was up 3.2 percent. Rising costs for food at home (3.1 percent) led the advance, though higher prices for food away from home (3.4 percent) also contributed to the yearly increase.

Energy

The energy index registered its fifth consecutive monthly decline and had the greatest downward impact on the all items index in November, falling 4.9 percent. The monthly decline in energy costs was largely attributable to an 8.1-percent drop in motor fuel prices, the largest one-month decrease since December 2008. Electricity prices were 2.3 percent lower, while costs for utility (piped) gas service increased 0.7 percent.

The index for energy decreased 2.9 percent from November 2013 to November 2014. Motor fuel prices were down 8.7 percent, the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year declines. Moderating the overall decline in energy costs, electricity prices advanced 3.1 percent and costs for utility (piped) gas service were 7.3 percent higher over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest declined 0.2 percent in November. Expenditure categories registering lower prices over the month included apparel (-2.5 percent) and used cars and trucks (-2.6 percent). In contrast, owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (0.2 percent) and medical care (0.2 percent) were among the expenditure categories posting higher prices over the month.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.3 percent from November 2013 to November 2014. Higher costs for shelter (2.1 percent) and medical care (3.0 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 224.396 in November 2014. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $224.40 in November 2014. 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 November, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 219.886, down 0.8 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 1.1 percent over the year.

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

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.6	-0.3	0.5	2.9	0.5	1.9	0.6	2.8	0.1	1.3	0.5	1.4
February	0.3	-0.2	0.0	2.5	0.3	2.2	0.2	2.7	1.1	2.2	0.6	0.9
March	0.3	-0.8	0.4	2.6	0.9	2.7	1.0	2.8	0.2	1.4	0.9	1.5
April	0.2	-1.5	0.2	2.7	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9
May	0.4	-1.9	0.1	2.4	0.6	3.8	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6
June	1.1	-1.7	0.0	1.2	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7
July	-0.3	-2.5	0.2	1.7	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8
August	0.4	-1.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6
September	0.0	-1.7	0.1	1.6	0.2	3.9	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6
October	0.1	-0.2	0.0	1.5	-0.6	3.3	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6
November	0.3	2.2	0.1	1.2	0.0	3.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	1.2

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

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
December	-0.3	3.0	0.2	1.8	-0.2	2.8	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0		

The December 2014 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Friday, January 16, 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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-		
	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2013	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014
Expenditure category						
All Items	226.913	225.793	224.396	1.2	-1.1	-0.6
All items (December 1977=100)	369.199	367.378	365.104			
Food and beverages	238.161	238.702	238.235	3.1	0.0	-0.2
Food	237.774	238.338	237.754	3.2	0.0	-0.2
Food at home	230.965	231.420	229.824	3.1	-0.5	-0.7
Food away from home	249.027	249.774	250.916	3.4	0.8	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	241.296	241.488	242.830	1.8	0.6	0.6
Housing	211.459	210.644	210.352	2.1	-0.5	-0.1
Shelter	244.808	245.395	245.477	2.1	0.3	0.0
Rent of primary residence [1]	242.739	243.638	244.282	2.6	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	248.646	249.403	249.784	1.8	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	248.639	249.395	249.775	1.8	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	227.181	217.402	215.342	4.3	-5.2	-0.9
Household energy	193.517	183.375	181.187	4.3	-6.4	-1.2
Energy services [1]	200.471	189.452	186.970	4.5	-6.7	-1.3
Electricity [1]	209.176	195.822	191.367	3.1	-8.5	-2.3
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	175.999	169.684	170.881	7.3	-2.9	0.7
Household furnishings and operations	116.185	116.742	116.376	-0.6	0.2	-0.3
Apparel	125.586	126.181	123.037	-1.6	-2.0	-2.5
Transportation	216.227	211.191	205.782	-2.3	-4.8	-2.6
Private transportation	211.342	205.861	200.239	-2.2	-5.3	-2.7
New and used motor vehicles [3]	99.717	99.102	98.517	-0.9	-1.2	-0.6
New vehicles	138.868	138.857	139.254	0.6	0.3	0.3
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	98.199	98.225	98.499	0.6	0.3	0.3
New cars [4]	135.202	135.026	135.543	-0.3	0.3	0.4
Used cars and trucks	151.997	148.634	144.778	-3.2	-4.7	-2.6
Motor fuel	306.255	283.662	260.787	-8.7	-14.8	-8.1
Gasoline (all types)	304.333	281.701	258.605	-8.8	-15.0	-8.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	301.447	278.555	255.229	-9.1	-15.3	-8.4
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	337.524	313.840	289.819	-7.2	-14.1	-7.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	304.077	283.904	262.977	-7.3	-13.5	-7.4
Medical Care	442.786	443.915	444.814	3.0	0.5	0.2
Medical care commodities	358.257	358.977	360.929	5.9	0.7	0.5
Medical care services	471.083	472.359	472.833	2.2	0.4	0.1
Professional services	387.271	386.863	386.869	2.0	-0.1	0.0
Recreation [3]	117.317	117.180	116.780	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3
Education and communication [3]	140.792	140.252	139.825	1.1	-0.7	-0.3
Other goods and services	394.583	394.814	394.513	0.7	0.0	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	226.913	225.793	224.396	1.2	-1.1	-0.6
Commodities	186.331	184.638	181.955	-0.1	-2.3	-1.5
Commodities less food & beverages	160.264	157.669	154.116	-2.0	-3.8	-2.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	213.706	208.644	201.987	-2.4	-5.5	-3.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	271.369	262.662	253.719	-2.8	-6.5	-3.4
Durables	108.154	107.792	107.056	-1.4	-1.0	-0.7
Services	269.148	268.587	268.450	2.1	-0.3	-0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	251.457	252.061	252.147	2.1	0.3	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-		
	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2013	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014
Transportation services	285.100	288.383	290.106	2.2	1.8	0.6
Other services	325.659	324.764	324.126	1.0	-0.5	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	216.697	215.471	213.964	1.0	-1.3	-0.7
All items less food	225.048	223.654	222.125	0.9	-1.3	-0.7
All items less shelter	222.868	221.093	219.123	0.8	-1.7	-0.9
Commodities less food	162.988	160.451	157.005	-1.9	-3.7	-2.1
Nondurables	226.464	224.025	220.260	0.3	-2.7	-1.7
Nondurables less food	215.269	210.472	204.221	-2.2	-5.1	-3.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	267.524	259.584	251.523	-2.4	-6.0	-3.1
Services less rent of shelter [2]	304.273	302.347	301.946	2.1	-0.8	-0.1
Services less medical care services	254.049	253.362	253.182	2.1	-0.3	-0.1
Energy	243.217	227.634	216.469	-2.9	-11.0	-4.9
All items less energy	227.775	228.145	227.746	1.6	0.0	-0.2
All items less food and energy	226.650	226.984	226.618	1.3	0.0	-0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.917	147.884	146.828	-0.2	-0.7	-0.7
Energy commodities	303.953	282.335	260.486	-8.3	-14.3	-7.7
Services less energy services	278.347	278.934	279.054	1.9	0.3	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-		
	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2013	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014
Expenditure category						
All Items	223.054	221.564	219.886	1.1	-1.4	-0.8
All items (December 1977=100)	360.728	358.318	355.605			
Food and beverages	238.713	239.224	238.781	3.3	0.0	-0.2
Food	238.448	238.965	238.395	3.4	0.0	-0.2
Food at home	232.009	232.383	230.840	3.4	-0.5	-0.7
Food away from home	249.832	250.624	251.948	3.5	0.8	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	241.302	241.719	243.295	1.8	0.8	0.7
Housing	206.871	205.914	205.682	2.2	-0.6	-0.1
Shelter	234.261	234.900	235.125	2.1	0.4	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	243.368	244.248	244.892	2.6	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	231.702	232.410	232.768	1.8	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	231.707	232.414	232.772	1.8	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	227.793	218.050	215.993	4.2	-5.2	-0.9
Household energy	193.721	183.681	181.511	4.1	-6.3	-1.2
Energy services [1]	199.100	188.353	185.911	4.4	-6.6	-1.3
Electricity [1]	207.027	194.320	190.113	3.1	-8.2	-2.2
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	177.251	170.717	171.846	7.2	-3.0	0.7
Household furnishings and operations	114.808	115.358	114.948	-0.7	0.1	-0.4
Apparel	123.444	124.337	121.454	-1.1	-1.6	-2.3
Transportation	217.673	211.450	204.898	-2.9	-5.9	-3.1
Private transportation	214.516	208.103	201.450	-2.8	-6.1	-3.2
New and used motor vehicles [3]	100.458	99.419	98.400	-1.5	-2.0	-1.0
New vehicles	142.328	142.205	142.633	0.4	0.2	0.3
Used cars and trucks	152.663	149.279	145.413	-3.2	-4.7	-2.6
Motor fuel	307.094	284.690	261.684	-8.6	-14.8	-8.1
Gasoline (all types)	305.044	282.625	259.435	-8.7	-15.0	-8.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	301.938	279.285	255.873	-9.1	-15.3	-8.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	337.264	313.769	289.763	-7.2	-14.1	-7.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	304.029	284.074	263.124	-7.3	-13.5	-7.4
Medical Care	448.038	449.157	449.958	3.0	0.4	0.2
Medical care commodities	352.317	353.084	354.712	5.9	0.7	0.5
Medical care services	477.582	478.820	479.266	2.1	0.4	0.1
Professional services	388.563	388.097	388.092	2.0	-0.1	0.0
Recreation [3]	113.932	113.929	113.608	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3
Education and communication [3]	133.263	132.523	132.103	0.4	-0.9	-0.3
Other goods and services	436.797	436.820	436.448	0.6	-0.1	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	223.054	221.564	219.886	1.1	-1.4	-0.8
Commodities	190.362	188.232	185.142	-0.3	-2.7	-1.6
Commodities less food & beverages	166.295	163.039	158.836	-2.4	-4.5	-2.6
Nondurables less food & beverages	225.455	219.285	211.530	-3.0	-6.2	-3.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	288.232	277.847	267.135	-3.5	-7.3	-3.9
Durables	110.698	110.030	108.988	-1.5	-1.5	-0.9
Services	262.295	261.519	261.428	2.1	-0.3	0.0
Rent of shelter [2]	232.661	233.299	233.527	2.1	0.4	0.1
Transportation services	283.871	286.751	288.544	2.6	1.6	0.6
Other services	302.918	301.869	301.269	0.8	-0.5	-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-		
	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2013	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	214.389	212.806	211.040	0.9	-1.6	-0.8
All items less food	220.016	218.164	216.287	0.6	-1.7	-0.9
All items less shelter	221.472	219.209	216.837	0.6	-2.1	-1.1
Commodities less food	168.697	165.524	161.454	-2.3	-4.3	-2.5
Nondurables	232.800	229.849	225.612	0.1	-3.1	-1.8
Nondurables less food	226.171	220.348	213.085	-2.8	-5.8	-3.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	282.508	273.063	263.413	-3.2	-6.8	-3.5
Services less rent of shelter [2]	270.390	268.096	267.655	2.1	-1.0	-0.2
Services less medical care services	247.975	247.088	246.967	2.1	-0.4	0.0
Energy	245.809	230.043	218.160	-3.4	-11.2	-5.2
All items less energy	222.020	222.283	221.854	1.6	-0.1	-0.2
All items less food and energy	218.930	219.140	218.739	1.2	-0.1	-0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	151.059	150.848	149.647	-0.4	-0.9	-0.8
Energy commodities	305.781	284.077	261.876	-8.4	-14.4	-7.8
Services less energy services	270.658	271.194	271.413	1.9	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.
(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.