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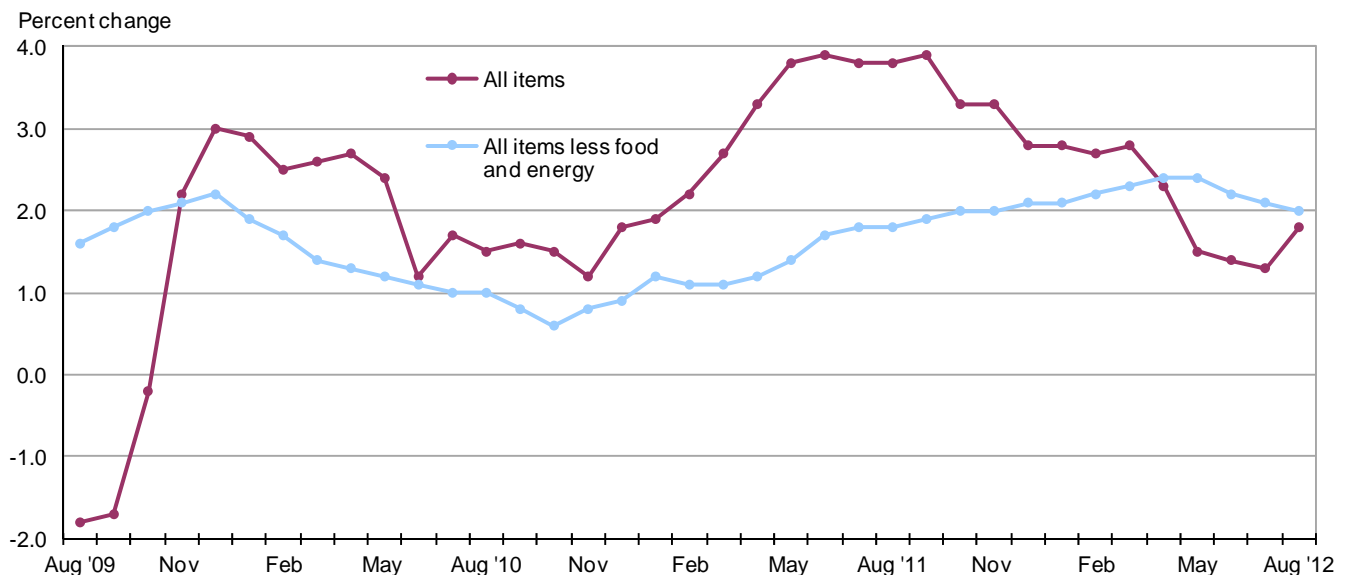
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MIDWEST REGION CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – AUGUST 2012
Prices in the Midwest up 0.7 percent in August and 1.8 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest rose 0.7 percent in August following three months of little movement the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher prices for motor fuel, up 8.9 percent, had the greatest impact on the index. Overall, energy costs rose 5.6 percent over the month. Food prices were 0.2 percent higher and the index for all items less food and energy was virtually unchanged in August.

The CPI-U for the Midwest rose 1.8 percent from August 2011 to August 2012. The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, registered little movement (0.1 percent), while food prices advanced 1.9 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U increased 2.0 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year changes in consumer price indexes, Midwest Region, August 2009–August 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices rose 0.2 percent in August. Costs for food away from home advanced 0.7 percent, the largest one-month increase since August 2011. Prices for food at home registered little change (-0.1 percent).

The annual rate of increase in food prices has slowed each month since late 2011. From August 2011 to August 2012, food prices rose 1.9 percent, the smallest over-the-year advance since January 2011. Higher costs for food at home (1.4 percent) and food away from home (2.7 percent) contributed to the increase.

Energy

The energy index for the Midwest turned up 5.6 percent in August after declining in each of the four previous months. Motor fuel prices jumped 8.9 percent and were largely responsible for the increase. Costs for utility (piped) gas service, up 3.2 percent, also contributed to the advance. In contrast, prices for electricity registered little movement over the month.

Despite the monthly advance, energy costs were virtually unchanged over the year (0.1 percent). A 3.9-percent rise in motor fuel prices was nearly offset by a 12.3-percent drop in utility (piped) gas service costs. Electricity prices were little changed (-0.1 percent) from August a year ago.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was up a slight 0.1 percent in August due to offsetting movements within the index. Among the components registering higher prices over the month were shelter (0.1 percent), apparel (1.4 percent), and medical care (0.5 percent). In contrast, expenditure categories posting lower prices over the month included new and used motor vehicles (-0.6 percent), household furnishings and operations (-0.6 percent), and recreation (-0.3 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy was up 2.0 percent from August 2011 to August 2012. Higher costs for shelter (1.9 percent), medical care (4.4 percent), and recreation (2.1 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 220.462 in August 2012. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$220.46 in August 2012. 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.

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

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.1	1.2	0.6	4.3	0.6	-0.3	0.5	2.9	0.5	1.9	0.6	2.8
February	0.7	2.0	0.2	3.8	0.3	-0.2	0.0	2.5	0.3	2.2	0.2	2.7
March	1.0	2.3	0.9	3.7	0.3	-0.8	0.4	2.6	0.9	2.7	1.0	2.8
April	0.5	2.3	0.8	4.0	0.2	-1.5	0.2	2.7	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3
May	0.9	2.9	0.9	4.0	0.4	-1.9	0.1	2.4	0.6	3.8	-0.1	1.5
June	0.0	2.7	0.9	4.9	1.1	-1.7	0.0	1.2	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4
July	-0.1	2.3	0.5	5.6	-0.3	-2.5	0.2	1.7	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3
August	-0.2	1.8	-0.3	5.4	0.4	-1.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8
September	0.6	3.1	0.0	4.8	0.0	-1.7	0.1	1.6	0.2	3.9		
October	-0.1	3.7	-1.5	3.3	0.1	-0.2	0.0	1.5	-0.6	3.3		
November	0.7	4.1	-2.1	0.5	0.3	2.2	0.1	1.2	0.0	3.3		
December	-0.3	3.8	-1.1	-0.3	-0.3	3.0	0.2	1.8	-0.2	2.8		

CPI-W

In August, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 217.113, up 0.8 percent over the month. The CPI-W increased 1.8 percent over the year.

The September 2012 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 16, 2012.

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 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 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.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Mountain-Plains Information Office at (816) 285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.
Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number (Federal Relay Service):
1-800-877-8339

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—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	219.017	218.956	220.462	1.8	0.7	0.7
All items (December 1977=100)	356.353	356.253	358.704	-	-	-
Food and beverages	227.322	227.457	227.944	1.9	.3	.2
Food	226.673	226.875	227.345	1.9	.3	.2
Food at home	222.143	221.868	221.671	1.4	-.2	-.1
Food away from home	233.740	234.808	236.489	2.7	1.2	.7
Alcoholic beverages	234.647	233.743	234.481	2.2	-.1	.3
Housing	202.087	202.651	203.002	1.0	.5	.2
Shelter	234.034	234.248	234.598	1.9	.2	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	230.290	230.627	231.340	2.5	.5	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	237.840	238.091	238.634	1.8	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	237.844	238.095	238.637	1.8	.3	.2
Fuels and utilities	204.944	208.133	210.018	-3.1	2.5	.9
Household energy	174.820	178.036	179.675	-5.1	2.8	.9
Energy services ¹	180.673	184.596	186.259	-4.5	3.1	.9
Electricity ¹	198.042	200.186	199.939	-.1	1.0	-.1
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	143.185	149.848	154.574	-12.3	8.0	3.2
Household furnishings and operations	119.587	119.538	118.780	.2	-.7	-.6
Apparel	117.387	114.637	116.220	2.7	-1.0	1.4
Transportation	217.986	215.927	221.970	2.0	1.8	2.8
Private transportation	212.377	210.506	216.980	2.3	2.2	3.1
New and used motor vehicles ³	102.041	101.834	101.225	-.7	-.8	-.6
New vehicles	137.940	137.261	136.943	.7	-.7	-.2
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	97.668	97.178	96.954	.7	-.7	-.2
New cars ⁴	136.811	136.121	135.711	.0	-.8	-.3
Used cars and trucks	157.627	158.066	156.844	-.7	-.5	-.8
Motor fuel	318.643	310.643	338.372	3.9	6.2	8.9
Gasoline (all types)	317.981	309.834	337.809	3.8	6.2	9.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	317.247	308.766	336.782	3.7	6.2	9.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	345.313	338.472	367.801	3.7	6.5	8.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	309.841	302.006	329.913	4.9	6.5	9.2
Medical care	414.421	416.680	418.681	4.4	1.0	.5
Medical care commodities	332.549	334.633	336.424	4.7	1.2	.5
Medical care services	441.685	443.972	446.023	4.3	1.0	.5
Professional services	368.233	369.269	370.049	2.2	.5	.2
Recreation ³	117.133	117.198	116.866	2.1	-.2	-.3
Education and communication ³	134.806	135.095	135.534	1.6	.5	.3
Other goods and services	378.499	383.061	383.299	3.0	1.3	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	219.017	218.956	220.462	1.8	.7	.7
Commodities	183.655	182.789	185.245	1.7	.9	1.3
Commodities less food and beverages	161.037	159.779	162.987	1.7	1.2	2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	210.995	208.686	216.078	3.0	2.4	3.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	271.648	269.503	280.449	2.8	3.2	4.1
Durables	111.923	111.639	111.020	-.6	-.8	-.6
Services	255.969	256.712	257.279	1.9	.5	.2
Rent of shelter ²	240.349	240.570	240.945	1.9	.2	.2
Transportation services	277.011	276.715	276.101	1.1	-.3	-.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
Commodity and service group						
Other services	312.193	312.839	313.422	3.1	0.4	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	209.703	209.544	211.022	1.6	.6	.7
All items less food	217.677	217.572	219.246	1.8	.7	.8
All items less shelter	215.979	215.812	217.776	1.7	.8	.9
Commodities less food	163.583	162.328	165.491	1.7	1.2	1.9
Nondurables	219.964	218.780	222.998	2.4	1.4	1.9
Nondurables less food	212.370	210.129	217.197	3.0	2.3	3.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	267.302	265.265	275.365	2.8	3.0	3.8
Services less rent of shelter ²	288.007	289.401	290.224	1.8	.8	.3
Services less medical care services	241.960	242.602	243.074	1.6	.5	.2
Energy	238.223	236.473	249.651	.1	4.8	5.6
All items less energy	219.421	219.540	219.808	2.0	.2	.1
All items less food and energy	218.779	218.883	219.115	2.0	.2	.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.878	146.567	146.483	1.0	-.3	-.1
Energy commodities	315.503	307.312	334.086	3.3	5.9	8.7
Services less energy services	265.810	266.204	266.652	2.4	.3	.2

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.

- Data not available.

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.

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—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	215.455	215.341	217.113	1.8	0.8	0.8
All items (December 1977=100)	348.438	348.254	351.120	-	-	-
Food and beverages	227.626	227.890	228.167	1.8	.2	.1
Food	227.108	227.440	227.686	1.8	.3	.1
Food at home	222.413	222.391	222.092	1.4	-.1	-.1
Food away from home	234.849	235.912	237.284	2.6	1.0	.6
Alcoholic beverages	234.246	233.348	234.155	2.4	.0	.3
Housing	197.070	197.668	198.127	1.0	.5	.2
Shelter	223.672	223.892	224.312	2.0	.3	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	230.783	231.110	231.808	2.5	.4	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	221.626	221.860	222.349	1.8	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	221.634	221.869	222.362	1.8	.3	.2
Fuels and utilities	205.865	209.022	210.929	-3.1	2.5	.9
Household energy	175.511	178.669	180.332	-5.1	2.7	.9
Energy services ¹	179.796	183.503	185.207	-4.8	3.0	.9
Electricity ¹	197.197	199.112	198.895	-.5	.9	-.1
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	143.035	149.631	154.524	-12.5	8.0	3.3
Household furnishings and operations	118.115	118.023	117.346	.1	-.7	-.6
Apparel	116.264	113.244	113.927	2.3	-2.0	.6
Transportation	220.034	217.660	224.907	2.4	2.2	3.3
Private transportation	216.471	214.224	221.768	2.6	2.4	3.5
New and used motor vehicles ³	102.689	102.455	101.890	-.8	-.8	-.6
New vehicles	141.529	140.737	140.480	.8	-.7	-.2
Used cars and trucks	158.666	159.107	157.873	-.7	-.5	-.8
Motor fuel	319.412	311.283	339.244	4.0	6.2	9.0
Gasoline (all types)	318.726	310.451	338.669	3.9	6.3	9.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	317.819	309.211	337.445	3.9	6.2	9.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	344.998	338.045	367.513	3.8	6.5	8.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	309.647	301.716	329.856	5.0	6.5	9.3
Medical care	418.750	421.099	423.183	4.7	1.1	.5
Medical care commodities	326.951	329.203	331.009	4.9	1.2	.5
Medical care services	447.329	449.667	451.821	4.6	1.0	.5
Professional services	369.740	370.662	371.457	2.3	.5	.2
Recreation ³	113.539	113.716	113.412	2.2	-.1	-.3
Education and communication ³	129.116	129.311	129.497	1.2	.3	.1
Other goods and services	412.778	420.781	420.892	3.5	2.0	.0
Commodity and service group						
All items	215.455	215.341	217.113	1.8	.8	.8
Commodities	187.858	186.929	189.831	2.0	1.1	1.6
Commodities less food and beverages	167.221	165.855	169.696	2.0	1.5	2.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	223.689	221.070	229.786	3.6	2.7	3.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	289.476	287.025	300.478	3.6	3.8	4.7
Durables	113.881	113.655	113.090	-.7	-.7	-.5
Services	249.179	249.924	250.540	1.8	.5	.2
Rent of shelter ²	222.099	222.320	222.752	2.0	.3	.2
Transportation services	273.789	273.617	273.182	1.4	-.2	-.2
Other services	292.226	292.670	292.975	2.8	.3	.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	207.547	207.352	209.104	1.6	.8	.8

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-Continued

Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less food	213.060	212.876	214.886	1.8	0.9	0.9
All items less shelter	215.034	214.788	217.113	1.8	1.0	1.1
Commodities less food	169.476	168.114	171.908	2.1	1.4	2.3
Nondurables	226.895	225.563	230.517	2.8	1.6	2.2
Nondurables less food	224.249	221.704	230.076	3.6	2.6	3.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	283.307	280.981	293.469	3.7	3.6	4.4
Services less rent of shelter ²	255.742	257.046	257.819	1.7	.8	.3
Services less medical care services	235.868	236.523	237.054	1.6	.5	.2
Energy	242.308	240.036	254.248	.5	4.9	5.9
All items less energy	213.743	213.907	214.085	1.9	.2	.1
All items less food and energy	211.305	211.438	211.603	2.0	.1	.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.663	149.482	149.225	.9	-.3	-.2
Energy commodities	317.854	309.562	336.915	3.8	6.0	8.8
Services less energy services	258.373	258.737	259.213	2.4	.3	.2

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.

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