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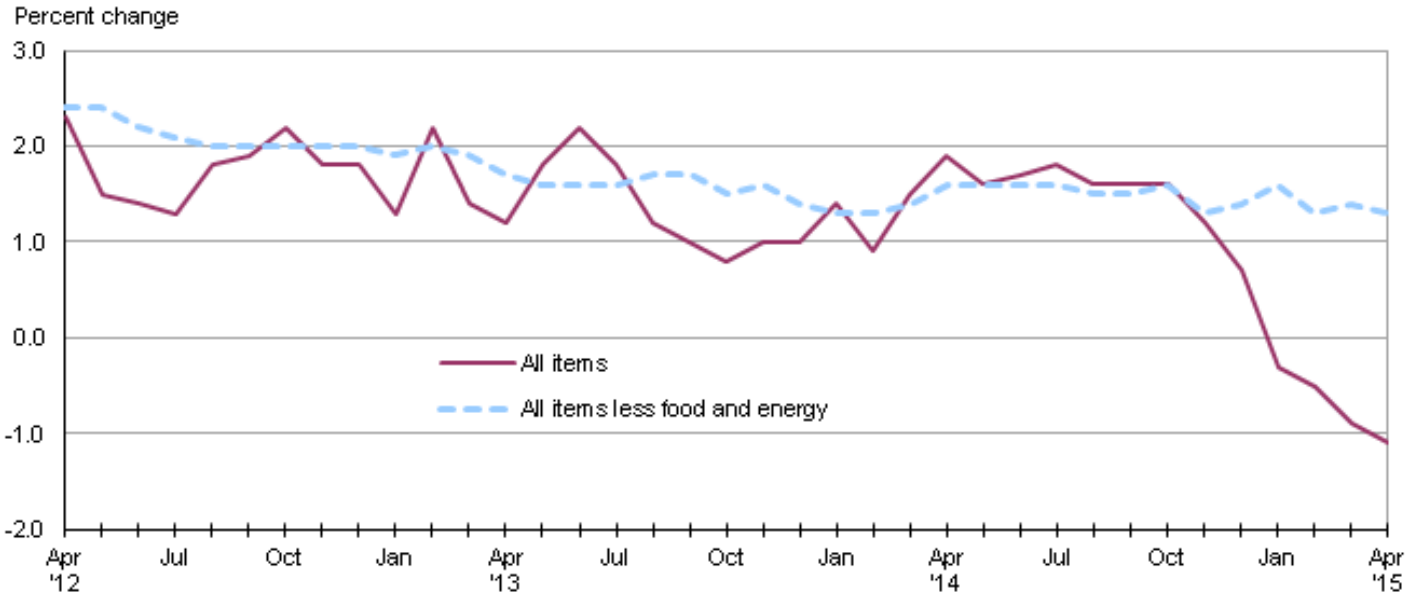
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – April 2015

Prices in the Midwest little changed in April but 1.1 percent lower over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest registered little movement in April (0.1 percent), following an increase of 0.6 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. A 7.9-percent decline in costs for utility (piped) gas service helped to offset increases in the indexes for food and all items less food and energy, each up 0.2 percent. Overall, the energy index was 1.1 percent lower over the month.

The CPI-U for the Midwest declined 1.1 percent from April 2014 to April 2015. Food prices increased 1.6 percent and the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 22.2 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.3 percent over the year. (See chart 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest increased 0.2 percent in April. The index for food at home was little changed (0.1 percent) while costs for food away from home rose 0.4 percent.

From April 2014 to April 2015, the index for food was up 1.6 percent led by a 3.2-percent rise in costs for food away from home. Prices for food at home also contributed to the increase with a gain of 0.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index for the Midwest turned down 1.1 percent in April. The decline was largely attributable to utility (piped) gas service costs which fell 7.9 percent over the month. Costs for electricity were unchanged while motor fuel prices advanced 0.5 percent over the month.

The index for energy fell 22.2 percent from April 2014 to April 2015, led by a 33.6-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Costs for utility (piped) gas service were 26.3 percent lower over the year, while electricity prices advanced 4.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest rose 0.2 percent in April. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included medical care services (0.9 percent), used cars and trucks (2.0 percent), and household furnishings and operations (0.8 percent).

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent from April 2014 to April 2015. Higher costs for shelter (2.2 percent) and medical care (2.7 percent) led the advance.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 223.797 in April 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $223.80 in April 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 April, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 218.701, up 0.1 percent over the month. The CPI-W decreased 1.7 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		
June	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7		
July	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8		
August	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6		
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 May 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 18, 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-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	222.301	223.550	223.797	-1.1	0.7	0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	361.696	363.728	364.130			
Food and beverages	239.275	238.426	238.898	1.6	-0.2	0.2
Food	238.916	238.005	238.467	1.6	-0.2	0.2
Food at home	230.747	229.093	229.209	0.6	-0.7	0.1
Food away from home	252.483	252.839	253.892	3.2	0.6	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	241.966	242.094	242.707	1.3	0.3	0.3
Housing	211.179	211.611	211.339	0.8	0.1	-0.1
Shelter	246.874	247.671	247.830	2.2	0.4	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	245.410	245.907	246.118	2.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	250.690	251.079	251.318	1.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	250.685	251.076	251.316	1.8	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities	215.005	215.017	210.883	-5.0	-1.9	-1.9
Household energy	179.695	179.444	174.941	-7.3	-2.6	-2.5
Energy services [1]	186.000	185.834	181.324	-6.9	-2.5	-2.4
Electricity [1]	195.755	195.988	196.065	4.4	0.2	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	160.257	159.376	146.758	-26.3	-8.4	-7.9
Household furnishings and operations	116.183	115.728	116.649	-0.9	0.4	0.8
Apparel	116.338	119.180	118.888	-3.7	2.2	-0.2
Transportation	192.031	196.851	197.917	-10.5	3.1	0.5
Private transportation	186.370	191.410	192.152	-10.9	3.1	0.4
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.552	99.690	100.176	0.6	1.6	0.5
New vehicles	140.017	140.770	140.375	1.1	0.3	-0.3
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	99.092	99.671	99.387	1.3	0.3	-0.3
New cars [4]	136.720	137.488	137.151	1.2	0.3	-0.2
Used cars and trucks	143.466	147.134	150.055	-0.9	4.6	2.0
Motor fuel	200.255	216.852	217.847	-33.6	8.8	0.5
Gasoline (all types)	198.686	215.352	216.441	-33.6	8.9	0.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	194.779	211.598	212.664	-34.2	9.2	0.5
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	228.057	244.607	245.031	-32.3	7.4	0.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	208.943	224.100	225.736	-30.0	8.0	0.7
Medical Care	447.300	448.997	452.309	2.7	1.1	0.7
Medical care commodities	365.206	367.210	368.360	4.9	0.9	0.3
Medical care services	474.584	476.141	480.267	2.1	1.2	0.9
Professional services	385.706	387.102	392.309	1.7	1.7	1.3
Recreation [3]	117.470	117.834	117.673	0.0	0.2	-0.1
Education and communication [3]	139.657	139.817	139.798	0.0	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	397.738	399.511	399.240	1.2	0.4	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	222.301	223.550	223.797	-1.1	0.7	0.1
Commodities	176.435	178.233	178.592	-4.6	1.2	0.2
Commodities less food & beverages	145.962	148.832	149.135	-8.3	2.2	0.2
Nondurables less food & beverages	184.760	190.312	190.305	-12.7	3.0	0.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	229.659	236.976	237.153	-15.2	3.3	0.1
Durables	107.062	107.504	108.064	-0.8	0.9	0.5
Services	269.730	270.445	270.585	1.4	0.3	0.1
Rent of shelter [2]	253.509	254.351	254.489	2.1	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-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Transportation services	290.801	291.422	293.419	2.8	0.9	0.7
Other services	325.980	326.611	326.858	1.0	0.3	0.1
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	211.653	212.880	212.982	-1.4	0.6	0.0
All items less food	219.501	221.101	221.313	-1.5	0.8	0.1
All items less shelter	215.691	217.124	217.407	-2.4	0.8	0.1
Commodities less food	148.998	151.812	152.124	-8.0	2.1	0.2
Nondurables	211.580	214.134	214.354	-5.7	1.3	0.1
Nondurables less food	187.821	193.099	193.124	-11.9	2.8	0.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	229.469	236.166	236.376	-14.0	3.0	0.1
Services less rent of shelter [2]	303.202	303.812	303.960	0.7	0.2	0.0
Services less medical care services	254.424	255.078	254.939	1.3	0.2	-0.1
Energy	189.377	196.429	194.290	-22.2	2.6	-1.1
All items less energy	228.223	228.883	229.381	1.4	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	226.969	227.923	228.429	1.3	0.6	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	145.475	146.607	146.893	-0.6	1.0	0.2
Energy commodities	201.538	217.372	217.927	-33.0	8.1	0.3
Services less energy services	280.589	281.406	282.057	2.0	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 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. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items	217.027	218.486	218.701	-1.7	0.8	0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	350.981	353.341	353.688			
Food and beverages	239.666	238.850	239.278	1.6	-0.2	0.2
Food	239.385	238.516	238.920	1.7	-0.2	0.2
Food at home	231.542	230.019	230.075	0.8	-0.6	0.0
Food away from home	253.490	253.897	254.974	3.3	0.6	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	242.511	242.526	243.345	1.3	0.3	0.3
Housing	206.414	206.814	206.454	0.7	0.0	-0.2
Shelter	236.406	237.080	237.230	2.2	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence [1]	246.060	246.588	246.793	2.8	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	233.691	234.095	234.327	1.9	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	233.700	234.105	234.338	1.9	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities	215.810	215.945	211.898	-4.8	-1.8	-1.9
Household energy	180.209	180.066	175.677	-7.0	-2.5	-2.4
Energy services [1]	185.079	185.035	180.687	-6.7	-2.4	-2.3
Electricity [1]	194.393	194.621	194.694	4.3	0.2	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	160.916	160.335	147.365	-27.0	-8.4	-8.1
Household furnishings and operations	114.487	114.123	115.025	-1.2	0.5	0.8
Apparel	114.419	117.486	117.348	-2.9	2.6	-0.1
Transportation	189.218	194.755	195.874	-12.1	3.5	0.6
Private transportation	185.670	191.345	192.325	-12.4	3.6	0.5
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.217	99.651	100.462	0.2	2.3	0.8
New vehicles	143.328	144.103	143.715	1.1	0.3	-0.3
Used cars and trucks	144.095	147.769	150.700	-0.9	4.6	2.0
Motor fuel	200.933	217.516	218.378	-33.6	8.7	0.4
Gasoline (all types)	199.303	215.927	216.885	-33.6	8.8	0.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	195.253	212.015	212.953	-34.3	9.1	0.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	228.044	244.428	244.792	-32.3	7.3	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	208.996	224.112	225.583	-30.0	7.9	0.7
Medical Care	452.580	454.386	457.501	2.7	1.1	0.7
Medical care commodities	358.683	361.026	362.113	4.9	1.0	0.3
Medical care services	481.278	482.825	486.704	2.0	1.1	0.8
Professional services	387.210	388.588	393.374	1.7	1.6	1.2
Recreation [3]	114.057	114.502	114.326	0.0	0.2	-0.2
Education and communication [3]	131.885	131.979	131.974	-0.6	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	440.161	442.505	441.953	1.0	0.4	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	217.027	218.486	218.701	-1.7	0.8	0.1
Commodities	178.621	180.817	181.249	-5.3	1.5	0.2
Commodities less food & beverages	149.165	152.648	153.076	-9.5	2.6	0.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	191.073	197.626	197.646	-14.4	3.4	0.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	238.547	247.230	247.342	-17.1	3.7	0.0
Durables	108.822	109.577	110.339	-0.8	1.4	0.7
Services	262.700	263.337	263.307	1.3	0.2	0.0
Rent of shelter [2]	234.724	235.417	235.541	2.2	0.3	0.1
Transportation services	290.358	290.842	292.184	3.4	0.6	0.5
Other services	302.749	303.328	303.588	0.6	0.3	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-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	207.984	209.428	209.536	-2.0	0.7	0.1
All items less food	212.734	214.613	214.793	-2.4	1.0	0.1
All items less shelter	212.475	214.229	214.469	-3.2	0.9	0.1
Commodities less food	151.978	155.384	155.823	-9.1	2.5	0.3
Nondurables	215.436	218.437	218.655	-6.6	1.5	0.1
Nondurables less food	193.667	199.875	199.937	-13.6	3.2	0.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	237.257	245.184	245.352	-15.9	3.4	0.1
Services less rent of shelter [2]	268.890	269.402	269.201	0.4	0.1	-0.1
Services less medical care services	248.187	248.767	248.511	1.2	0.1	-0.1
Energy	189.124	196.786	194.866	-23.1	3.0	-1.0
All items less energy	222.207	222.911	223.391	1.3	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	218.960	219.996	220.493	1.3	0.7	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	148.147	149.579	150.022	-0.5	1.3	0.3
Energy commodities	202.323	218.310	218.807	-33.2	8.1	0.2
Services less energy services	272.963	273.689	274.227	2.0	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.