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

For Release: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 **16-407-KAN**

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE: Kansas City, Mo.
Technical information: (816) 285-7000 BLSInfoKansasCity@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains
Media contact: (816) 285-7000

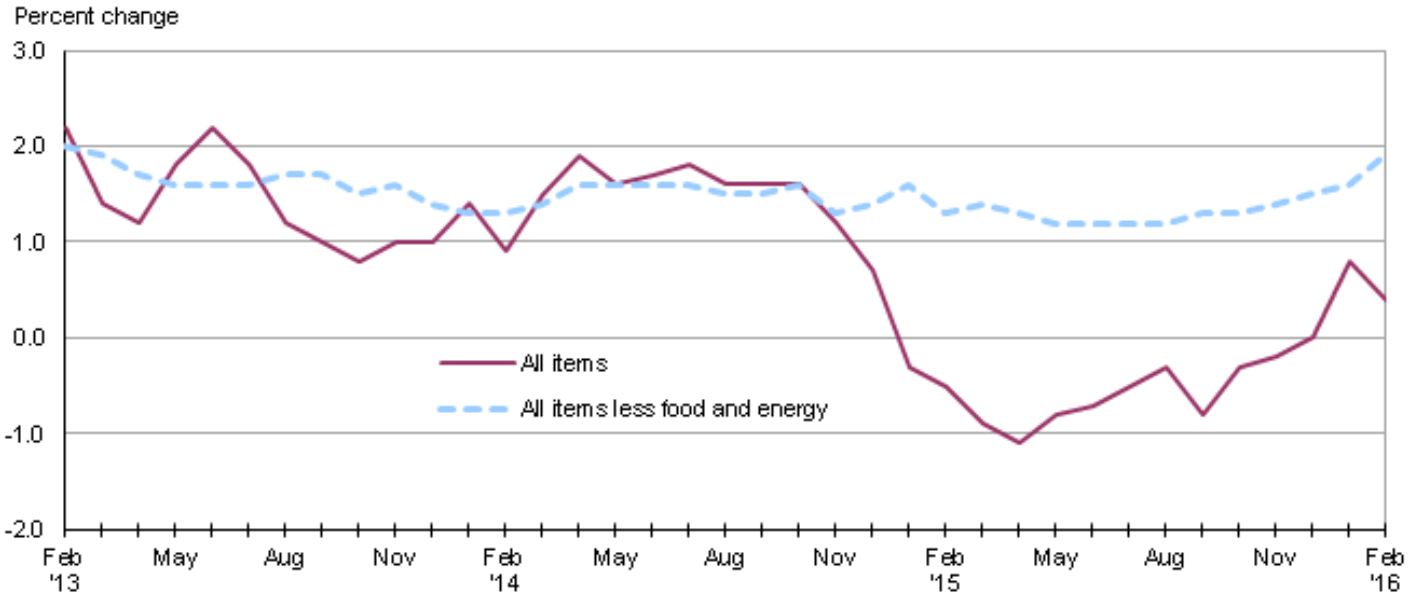
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – February 2016

Prices in the Midwest unchanged in February and 0.4 percent higher over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was unchanged in February due to offsetting movements within the index, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. A decline of 5.0 percent in prices for energy had the largest downward impact on the index. Food prices (-0.2 percent) were also lower over the month. Conversely, the all items less food and energy index recorded a broad-based increase of 0.4 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 advanced 0.4 percent from February 2015 to February 2016. (See chart 1 and table A.) The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 14.8 percent, but prices for food were up 0.6 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.9 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were 0.2 percent lower in February following an increase of 0.4 percent in the prior month. The index for food at home led the decline with a 0.4-percent decrease while prices for food away from home (0.1 percent) changed little over the month.

From February 2015 to February 2016, the index for food advanced 0.6 percent. Rising costs for food away from home (2.3 percent) were responsible for the yearly advance. Prices for food at home registered their fifth consecutive over-the-year decline, down 0.4 percent since February 2015.

Energy

The energy index registered its eighth consecutive monthly decline, falling 5.0 percent in February, and had the greatest downward impact on the all items index. The decrease in energy costs was largely attributable to an 11.4-percent drop in motor fuel prices, though lower costs for electricity (-0.6 percent) also contributed to the decline. Prices for utility (piped) gas service were unchanged over the month.

Energy prices fell 14.8 percent from February 2015 to February 2016. Prices for motor fuel and utility (piped) gas service were down 26.9 and 13.8 percent, respectively. Costs for electricity were 0.5 percent higher over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest rose 0.4 percent for the second month in a row. Expenditure categories registering higher prices over the month included shelter (0.3 percent), recreation (0.8 percent), and medical care (0.5 percent). Apparel prices, which typically rise in February reflecting the introduction of spring-summer wear, rose 2.2 percent. A decline in costs for education and communication (-0.3 percent) moderated the overall increase.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.9 percent from February 2015 to February 2016. A 2.7-percent rise in shelter costs led the advance. Prices for medical care services had the next largest upward impact with a 3.7-percent increase. Costs for household furnishings and operations (-0.8 percent) were among those that were lower than a year ago.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 223.196 in February 2016. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost $223.20 in February 2016. 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 February, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 217.002, down 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W was unchanged 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		
April	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.1	-1.1		
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		

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

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
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 March 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Thursday, April 14, 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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; 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-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	222.722	223.301	223.196	0.4	0.2	0.0
All items (December 1977=100)	362.381	363.324	363.153			
Food and beverages	240.283	241.228	240.839	0.7	0.2	-0.2
Food	239.965	240.910	240.425	0.6	0.2	-0.2
Food at home	229.594	230.695	229.779	-0.4	0.1	-0.4
Food away from home	257.281	257.959	258.214	2.3	0.4	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	242.342	243.266	244.264	0.9	0.8	0.4
Housing	212.751	213.978	214.511	1.6	0.8	0.2
Shelter	251.159	252.717	253.512	2.7	0.9	0.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	250.954	251.478	252.375	2.8	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	255.603	256.205	256.960	2.5	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	255.593	256.195	256.948	2.5	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	207.707	209.516	209.027	-2.8	0.6	-0.2
Household energy	170.228	171.981	171.352	-4.6	0.7	-0.4
Energy services [1]	177.472	179.413	178.723	-3.9	0.7	-0.4
Electricity [1]	196.090	197.846	196.735	0.5	0.3	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	136.057	138.180	138.218	-13.8	1.6	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	114.930	114.861	115.264	-0.8	0.3	0.4
Apparel	116.220	115.113	117.623	1.1	1.2	2.2
Transportation	186.673	185.470	182.112	-5.2	-2.4	-1.8
Private transportation	180.971	179.619	176.285	-5.4	-2.6	-1.9
New and used motor vehicles [3]	98.065	98.592	99.063	0.5	1.0	0.5
New vehicles	139.731	141.020	141.195	0.8	1.0	0.1
New cars and trucks [3] [4]	98.894	99.786	99.911	0.8	1.0	0.1
New cars [4]	135.869	137.361	137.367	0.5	1.1	0.0
Used cars and trucks	142.725	142.892	144.399	0.7	1.2	1.1
Motor fuel	174.035	165.273	146.354	-26.9	-15.9	-11.4
Gasoline (all types)	172.760	164.221	145.296	-26.9	-15.9	-11.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	167.221	158.679	139.779	-28.2	-16.4	-11.9
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	203.700	193.684	174.959	-23.3	-14.1	-9.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	196.843	189.455	171.411	-18.0	-12.9	-9.5
Medical Care	456.158	460.482	462.960	3.5	1.5	0.5
Medical care commodities	367.698	372.142	375.338	2.8	2.1	0.9
Medical care services	485.853	490.115	492.328	3.7	1.3	0.5
Professional services	393.920	398.690	399.648	3.6	1.5	0.2
Recreation [3]	116.820	117.035	117.977	0.4	1.0	0.8
Education and communication [3]	140.809	140.759	140.329	0.5	-0.3	-0.3
Other goods and services	402.754	404.001	405.629	2.0	0.7	0.4
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	222.722	223.301	223.196	0.4	0.2	0.0
Commodities	173.956	173.702	172.721	-2.1	-0.7	-0.6
Commodities less food & beverages	142.071	141.346	140.158	-4.0	-1.3	-0.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	178.468	176.365	173.387	-6.2	-2.8	-1.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	219.385	216.630	210.121	-8.5	-4.2	-3.0
Durables	105.394	105.740	105.962	-1.0	0.5	0.2
Services	273.027	274.459	275.247	2.0	0.8	0.3
Rent of shelter [2]	257.965	259.585	260.370	2.7	0.9	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-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Transportation services	294.734	295.273	295.789	1.7	0.4	0.2
Other services	329.098	329.565	330.888	1.5	0.5	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	211.674	212.075	211.847	0.1	0.1	-0.1
All items less food	219.819	220.340	220.295	0.4	0.2	0.0
All items less shelter	214.664	214.900	214.473	-0.6	-0.1	-0.2
Commodities less food	145.198	144.511	143.374	-3.8	-1.3	-0.8
Nondurables	208.707	208.046	206.289	-2.5	-1.2	-0.8
Nondurables less food	181.867	179.932	177.175	-5.7	-2.6	-1.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	220.113	217.696	211.880	-7.7	-3.7	-2.7
Services less rent of shelter [2]	305.354	306.664	307.502	1.4	0.7	0.3
Services less medical care services	257.153	258.377	259.060	1.8	0.7	0.3
Energy	172.607	169.831	161.307	-14.8	-6.5	-5.0
All items less energy	230.433	231.350	232.074	1.7	0.7	0.3
All items less food and energy	229.402	230.318	231.263	1.9	0.8	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	144.724	144.964	145.862	0.3	0.8	0.6
Energy commodities	174.361	165.933	147.858	-26.6	-15.2	-10.9
Services less energy services	285.208	286.596	287.547	2.5	0.8	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-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items	217.076	217.406	217.002	0.0	0.0	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	351.060	351.594	350.941			
Food and beverages	240.429	241.307	240.951	0.5	0.2	-0.1
Food	240.126	241.015	240.570	0.5	0.2	-0.2
Food at home	230.145	231.145	230.355	-0.5	0.1	-0.3
Food away from home	258.382	259.032	259.306	2.3	0.4	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	243.618	244.304	245.408	1.2	0.7	0.5
Housing	208.019	208.964	209.482	1.5	0.7	0.2
Shelter	240.820	241.844	242.636	2.6	0.8	0.3
Rent of primary residence [1]	251.579	252.081	252.973	2.8	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences [1] [2]	238.259	238.818	239.532	2.5	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence [1] [2]	238.264	238.820	239.534	2.5	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	208.733	210.607	210.129	-2.6	0.7	-0.2
Household energy	171.065	172.874	172.252	-4.4	0.7	-0.4
Energy services [1]	176.948	178.924	178.226	-3.7	0.7	-0.4
Electricity [1]	194.528	196.188	195.083	0.4	0.3	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	136.666	139.096	139.151	-13.5	1.8	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	113.211	113.211	113.594	-0.8	0.3	0.3
Apparel	114.942	113.929	115.258	0.7	0.3	1.2
Transportation	182.979	181.247	177.526	-6.2	-3.0	-2.1
Private transportation	179.465	177.641	173.913	-6.3	-3.1	-2.1
New and used motor vehicles [3]	97.770	98.099	98.841	0.6	1.1	0.8
New vehicles	142.957	144.190	144.582	0.9	1.1	0.3
Used cars and trucks	143.365	143.507	145.015	0.6	1.2	1.1
Motor fuel	174.645	165.692	146.423	-27.1	-16.2	-11.6
Gasoline (all types)	173.289	164.562	145.317	-27.1	-16.1	-11.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular [4]	167.620	158.866	139.683	-28.5	-16.7	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [4] [5]	203.598	193.747	174.560	-23.5	-14.3	-9.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium [4]	196.871	189.441	171.138	-18.1	-13.1	-9.7
Medical Care	461.516	466.316	468.582	3.5	1.5	0.5
Medical care commodities	361.494	366.005	369.033	2.9	2.1	0.8
Medical care services	492.531	497.385	499.356	3.8	1.4	0.4
Professional services	395.464	401.087	402.160	3.9	1.7	0.3
Recreation [3]	113.007	113.315	114.165	0.1	1.0	0.8
Education and communication [3]	132.688	132.671	132.209	0.2	-0.4	-0.3
Other goods and services	449.210	450.972	451.919	2.7	0.6	0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items	217.076	217.406	217.002	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Commodities	175.929	175.493	173.990	-2.6	-1.1	-0.9
Commodities less food & beverages	144.999	144.058	142.150	-4.7	-2.0	-1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	184.028	181.446	176.450	-7.7	-4.1	-2.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	226.980	223.470	214.891	-9.9	-5.3	-3.8
Durables	107.240	107.546	107.992	-0.8	0.7	0.4
Services	265.862	267.013	267.765	1.9	0.7	0.3
Rent of shelter [2]	239.160	240.189	240.957	2.7	0.8	0.3
Transportation services	295.372	295.558	296.807	2.2	0.5	0.4
Other services	304.910	305.329	306.217	1.1	0.4	0.3

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-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	207.707	207.866	207.359	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
All items less food	212.657	212.896	212.501	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
All items less shelter	210.973	211.060	210.225	-1.1	-0.4	-0.4
Commodities less food	147.932	147.024	145.173	-4.5	-1.9	-1.3
Nondurables	212.153	211.209	208.398	-3.3	-1.8	-1.3
Nondurables less food	187.052	184.632	179.937	-7.1	-3.8	-2.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	226.789	223.618	215.824	-9.0	-4.8	-3.5
Services less rent of shelter [(2)]	270.312	271.488	272.155	1.2	0.7	0.2
Services less medical care services	250.860	251.781	252.456	1.7	0.6	0.3
Energy	172.019	168.830	159.565	-15.6	-7.2	-5.5
All items less energy	224.377	225.128	225.775	1.6	0.6	0.3
All items less food and energy	221.434	222.160	223.008	1.8	0.7	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	147.798	148.090	148.833	0.5	0.7	0.5
Energy commodities	175.132	166.562	148.184	-26.8	-15.4	-11.0
Services less energy services	277.612	278.666	279.597	2.4	0.7	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.