



## NEWS RELEASE



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### Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha – March 2014

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area rose 1.1 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices increased 11.7 percent while food prices rose 0.3 percent. The all items less food and energy category saw little change, up 0.1 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for apparel and unchanged for shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U increased 1.9 percent. The energy index rose 7.9 percent since last March due to increases in costs for utility (piped) gas service. The all items less food and energy index was 1.4 percent higher over the year.

#### Food

Food prices increased 0.3 percent in March after rising 1.1 percent in February. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) rose 0.4 percent and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) rose 0.2 percent over the month. Within the food at home group, prices were higher for citrus fruits; uncooked ground beef; and ham. In contrast, prices were lower for other bakery products and milk.

From March 2013 to March 2014, the food index increased 1.6 percent. Grocery food prices rose 0.9 percent over the year while prices for food eaten away from home increased 2.8 percent compared to last March.

#### Energy

The energy index rose 11.7 percent in March following a 2.0-percent increase in February. Within the energy category, prices rose for utility (piped) gas services (30.9 percent) and gasoline (9.4 percent). Electricity prices were unchanged over the month.

Overall energy prices were up 7.9 percent from March 2013 to March 2014. The index for utility (piped)

gas service was 61.1 percent higher compared to a year ago. In contrast, the indexes for electricity and gasoline were down 7.0 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, over the year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy saw little change, up 0.1 percent in March. Among the index's components, prices were higher for apparel (1.7 percent) while shelter was unchanged.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.4 percent. Increases in prices for shelter (1.6 percent) and apparel (7.3 percent) were contributing factors.

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha (not seasonally adjusted) Expenditure Category Percent changes from preceding month 12 mo. ended Mar. '14 2013 2014  
Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar.

All items -0.2 -0.3 -0.3 -0.3 0.3 0.9 0.5 1.1 1.9

Food & beverages -0.6 0.5 -0.1 0.0 0.8 1.0 3.1 8

Food -0.6 0.5 -0.1 0.0 0.8 1.0 3.1 6

Housing -0.3 0.0 0.2 -0.1 1.0 0.2 1.4 3.5

Apparel 5.4 -1.6 -3.6 -5.0 2.5 4.1 7.7 3

Transportation -0.8 -1.6 -1.9 -0.4 1.4 0.5 3.1 -1.0

Medical care -0.1 0.2 0.2 0.0 0.5 0.2 0.2 1.2

Recreation 0.1 -1.7 0.2 -0.3 0.7 0.2 -0.2 -0.6

Education & communication -0.1 0.4 0.1 -0.3 0.1 0.6 0.1 4

Other goods & services 0.2 -0.1 0.7 -0.2 0.2 -0.3 0.3 1.7

### **Special Indexes**

Energy -1.3 -3.9 -3.4 -0.6 5.6 2.0 11.7 7.9

All items less food & energy 0.1 -0.1 0.0 -0.4 0.5 0.3 0.1 1.4

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**The April 2014 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on May 15, 2014, at 7:30 a.m. (CT).**

### **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 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](http://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](http://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 cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

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

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periodsChicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)Item and GroupIndexesPercent change from-Jan.2014Feb.2014Mar.2014Mar.2013Jan.2014Feb.2014

Expenditure category

All items225.027226.217228.7841.91.71.1

All items (1967=100)672.286675.841683.511---

Food and beverages231.741234.205234.9161.81.40.3

Food230.519233.022233.7791.61.40.3

Food at home231.296231.463232.4820.90.50.4

Food away from home224.183229.943230.3122.82.70.2

Alcoholic beverages248.192250.052250.0785.00.80.0

Housing225.380225.723228.8483.51.51.4

Shelter278.363278.108278.1071.6-0.10.0

Rent of primary residence (1)292.988292.801292.9742.50.00.1

Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1)(2)285.782285.210284.7561.7-0.4-0.2

Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1)(2)285.782285.210284.7561.7-0.4-0.2

Fuels and utilities187.450192.872215.21718.714.811.6

Household energy157.107162.551186.25521.818.614.6

Energy services (1)159.465164.475189.26821.618.715.1

Electricity (1)139.704139.772139.816-7.00.10.0

Utility (piped) gas service (1)171.795183.168239.85461.139.630.9

Household furnishings and operations100.22499.06399.2791.3-0.90.2

Apparel93.16297.23998.8547.36.11.7

Transportation197.112198.032204.235-1.03.63.1

Private transportation194.262195.037201.455-0.93.73.3

Motor fuel 305.691308.435337.372-1.510.49.4

Gasoline (all types) 302.329305.015333.748-1.710.49.4

Gasoline, unleaded regular (3) 296.121298.855327.686-2.010.79.6

Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3)(4) 317.760319.763348.344-1.89.68.9

Gasoline, unleaded premium (3) 296.249299.069324.9690.09.78.7

Medical care 446.363447.092447.7841.20.30.2

Recreation (5) 109.263109.524109.278-0.60.0-0.2

Education and communication (5) 139.743140.583140.5571.40.60.0

Other goods and services 384.199383.209384.4461.70.10.3

Commodity and service group

All items 225.027226.217228.7841.91.71.1

Commodities 171.997173.646176.1240.82.41.4

Commodities less food & beverages 140.389141.630144.7970.23.12.2

Nondurables less food & beverages 187.770191.212197.4681.35.23.3

Durables 95.04894.21294.456-2.2-0.60.3

Services 275.282276.040278.6942.71.21.0

Special aggregate indexes

All items less medical care 215.564216.776219.4302.01.81.2

All items less shelter 207.243208.951212.4392.02.51.7

Commodities less food 144.484145.752148.8610.33.02.1

Nondurables 211.276214.294217.9761.53.21.7

Nondurables less food 192.145195.522201.4781.44.93.0

Services less rent of shelter (2) 286.460288.334293.9413.82.61.9

Services less medical care services 262.13 1262.94 2265.75 02.91.41.1

Energy 214.56 4218.94 6244.63 67.91 4.01 1.7

All items less energy 227.79 7228.69 2229.07 21.40.60.2

All items less food and energy 228.12 6228.72 6229.03 81.40.40.1

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 1982=100 base. (3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample. (4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base. (5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.