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Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha - December 2014

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area decreased 0.4 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices fell 2.9 percent while food prices edged down 0.1 percent in December. The all items less food and energy index declined 0.2 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy index, prices were lower for apparel, education and communication, and shelter in December. (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 1.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index fell 2.3 percent over the year as falling gasoline prices surpassed increases in the cost of electricity and utility (piped) gas service. The all items less food and energy index was 1.3 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, December 2011–December 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged down 0.1 percent in December following a 0.2 percent increase in November. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) were unchanged and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) fell 0.2 percent over the month. Within the food at home group, categories experiencing decreases included lettuce, citrus fruits, and carbonated drinks. Prices were higher for ice cream and related products, eggs, and ham.

From December 2013 to December 2014, the food index increased 4.6 percent. Grocery food prices rose 4.6 percent over the year, while prices for food eaten away from home increased 4.7 percent compared to last December.

Energy

The energy index was down 2.9 percent in December due to a 14.0 percent decline in gasoline prices. In contrast, the electricity index rose 12.0 percent and utility (piped) gas service costs increased 5.2 percent from November to December.

On an annual basis, the Chicago area energy index declined 2.3 percent. Over the year, gasoline prices fell 20.7 percent, while the indexes for electricity and utility (piped) gas service rose 32.9 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy decreased 0.2 percent in December. Among the index's components, prices were 2.0 percent lower for apparel. Contributing to December's decrease, but to a lesser extent, education and communication decreased 0.4 percent and the heavily weighted shelter index edged down 0.1 percent.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent. Annual increases in the indexes for shelter (2.2 percent), medical care (2.8 percent), and education and communication (2.2 percent) were the major 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 Dec. '14
	2014							
	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
All items.....	0.4	-0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-0.4	1.5
Food & beverages.....	-0.1	-0.1	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	-0.2	4.2
Food.....	-0.1	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	-0.1	4.6
Housing.....	0.7	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	0.8	3.6
Apparel.....	-2.6	-3.7	4.3	0.2	-1.6	-3.4	-2.0	-2.0
Transportation.....	1.2	-2.9	-1.5	-0.3	-2.3	-2.5	-4.5	-6.6
Medical care.....	-0.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.3	2.8
Recreation.....	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.9	0.1	-1.3	0.4	-0.4
Education & communication.....	0.2	-0.1	0.5	0.9	0.1	-0.3	-0.4	2.2
Other goods & services.....	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.3	-0.2	-0.6	-0.1	-0.4
Special Indexes								
Energy.....	3.8(r)	-3.2	-3.0	-1.4	-6.4	-7.2	-2.9	-2.3
All items less food & energy.....	0.1	-0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	-0.3	-0.2	1.3

Footnotes:
(R) Revised.

The January 2015 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Thursday, February 26, 2015, 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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 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 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 periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2013	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014
Expenditure category						
All items	228.987	227.184	226.262	1.5	-1.2	-0.4
All items (1967=100)	684.116	678.730	675.977	-	-	-
Food and beverages	239.670	240.189	239.696	4.2	0.0	-0.2
Food	239.050	239.473	239.290	4.6	0.1	-0.1
Food at home	238.639	238.386	238.423	4.6	-0.1	0.0
Food away from home	234.207	235.579	235.088	4.7	0.4	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages	247.128	249.069	244.012	-1.2	-1.3	-2.0
Housing	230.478	229.412	231.194	3.6	0.3	0.8
Shelter	283.879	284.083	283.784	2.2	0.0	-0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	300.655	301.479	301.381	3.0	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	289.171	289.805	289.997	1.7	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	289.171	289.805	289.997	1.7	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities	202.809	194.224	208.151	17.8	2.6	7.2
Household energy	172.186	163.069	177.344	21.0	3.0	8.8
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	175.433	166.012	180.839	21.5	3.1	8.9
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	169.367	150.964	169.046	32.9	-0.2	12.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	167.320	171.207	180.138	9.4	7.7	5.2
Household furnishings and operations	97.500	97.436	97.701	-1.1	0.2	0.3
Apparel	94.121	90.884	89.021	-2.0	-5.4	-2.0
Transportation	195.023	190.087	181.549	-6.6	-6.9	-4.5
Private transportation	191.902	187.081	178.718	-6.6	-6.9	-4.5
Motor fuel	296.760	270.133	232.615	-20.6	-21.6	-13.9
Gasoline (all types)	293.546	267.032	229.771	-20.7	-21.7	-14.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	286.684	260.592	223.141	-21.2	-22.2	-14.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	313.959	285.394	250.433	-18.0	-20.2	-12.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	293.021	268.627	236.445	-17.4	-19.3	-12.0
Medical care	456.734	455.082	456.459	2.8	-0.1	0.3
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	109.118	107.683	108.077	-0.4	-1.0	0.4
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	143.703	143.298	142.664	2.2	-0.7	-0.4
Other goods and services	384.759	382.445	381.911	-0.4	-0.7	-0.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	228.987	227.184	226.262	1.5	-1.2	-0.4
Commodities	173.001	170.358	167.390	-1.4	-3.2	-1.7
Commodities less food & beverages	138.343	134.408	130.456	-5.4	-5.7	-2.9
Nondurables less food & beverages	186.568	178.573	170.381	-7.0	-8.7	-4.6
Durables	92.219	92.125	92.185	-2.6	0.0	0.1
Services	282.035	281.023	282.032	3.1	0.0	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	219.246	217.434	216.409	1.4	-1.3	-0.5
All items less shelter	210.672	208.150	207.004	1.1	-1.7	-0.6
Commodities less food	142.448	138.639	134.624	-5.2	-5.5	-2.9
Nondurables	214.430	210.408	205.796	-1.1	-4.0	-2.2
Nondurables less food	190.943	183.438	175.366	-6.6	-8.2	-4.4
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	294.829	292.484	294.935	4.1	0.0	0.8
Services less medical care services	268.785	267.713	268.693	3.2	0.0	0.4
Energy	220.273	204.366	198.467	-2.3	-9.9	-2.9
All items less energy	231.621	231.150	230.696	1.8	-0.4	-0.2

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 Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2013	Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014
All items less food and energy	231.092	230.454	229.948	1.3	-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) 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.