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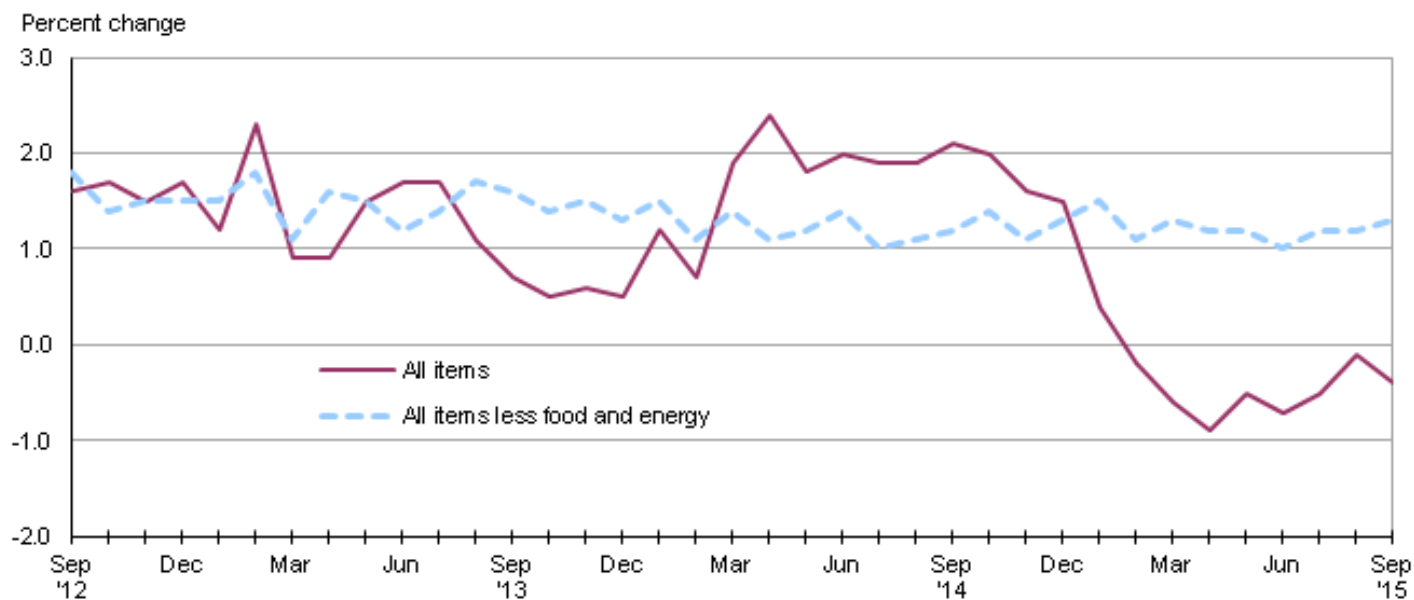
## **Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — September 2015**

### **Local prices down 0.4 over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area decreased 0.3 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices fell 6.1 percent and food prices increased 0.1 percent in September. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.2 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices rose for shelter and education and communication in September. (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 declined 0.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The energy index fell 19.4 percent over the year due to annual declines in gasoline prices, utility (piped) gas service costs, and electricity costs. 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, September 2012–September 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices edged up 0.1 percent in September following a 0.7 percent increase in August. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) fell 0.4 percent while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) rose 0.8 percent over the month. Within the food at home group, prices were lower for carbonated drinks and soups. In contrast, categories experiencing increases included lettuce, ice cream and related products, and breakfast cereal.

From September 2014 to September 2015, the food index increased 2.1 percent. Grocery food prices rose 1.1 percent over the year, while prices for food eaten away from home increased 3.5 percent from the previous September.

## Energy

The energy index was down 6.1 percent in September, due to declines in gasoline prices (-10.1 percent) and electricity costs (-2.7 percent).

On an annual basis, the Chicago area energy index declined 19.4 percent due to a 25.6 percent decrease in gasoline prices and a 22.1 percent decrease in utility (piped) gas service costs. The electricity index fell 4.3 percent over the year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was up 0.2 percent in September. Among the index's components, prices were higher for shelter (0.4 percent) and education and communication (0.8 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) and medical care (2.6 percent) were the major contributing factors. In contrast, apparel prices were down 3.5 percent.

**Table A. Chicago 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.....	0.6	1.4	0.6	2.1	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4
February.....	0.5	1.8	0.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2
March.....	0.8	2.3	1.2	2.1	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6
April.....	0.4	2.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9
May.....	0.6	3.3	-0.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8	0.3	-0.5
June.....	0.0	3.8	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0	0.2	-0.7
July.....	-0.4	3.2	-0.2	1.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.5
August.....	0.2	3.2	0.6	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9	0.4	-0.1
September.....	0.2	3.1	0.3	1.6	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1	-0.3	-0.4
October.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0		
November.....	-0.2	2.9	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6		
December.....	-0.5	2.1	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5		

**The October 2015 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, November 17, 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 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](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.

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**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-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	228.588	229.527	228.826	-0.4	0.1	-0.3
All items (1967=100) .....	682.925	685.732	683.637	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	241.342	242.903	243.146	1.8	0.7	0.1
Food .....	241.147	242.809	243.037	2.1	0.8	0.1
Food at home .....	238.284	240.679	239.750	1.1	0.6	-0.4
Food away from home .....	239.735	240.318	242.183	3.5	1.0	0.8
Alcoholic beverages .....	242.506	242.577	243.035	-1.6	0.2	0.2
Housing .....	232.275	232.650	232.901	0.7	0.3	0.1
Shelter .....	288.348	288.675	289.844	2.2	0.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	306.063	306.620	307.585	2.9	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	293.019	293.746	294.816	2.3	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	293.019	293.746	294.816	2.3	0.6	0.4
Fuels and utilities .....	196.291	198.021	195.083	-7.3	-0.6	-1.5
Household energy .....	159.334	161.170	158.053	-12.3	-0.8	-1.9
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	162.332	164.248	161.045	-12.4	-0.8	-2.0
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	161.749	163.539	159.175	-4.3	-1.6	-2.7
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	147.867	149.779	148.482	-22.1	0.4	-0.9
Household furnishings and operations .....	96.654	96.302	95.843	-1.2	-0.8	-0.5
Apparel .....	86.532	91.786	92.371	-3.5	6.7	0.6
Transportation .....	190.042	189.972	184.406	-7.6	-3.0	-2.9
Private transportation .....	187.814	187.518	181.597	-8.0	-3.3	-3.2
Motor fuel .....	264.394	266.987	240.088	-25.6	-9.2	-10.1
Gasoline (all types) .....	261.715	264.342	237.632	-25.6	-9.2	-10.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	254.318	256.764	229.098	-26.8	-9.9	-10.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	283.318	285.511	263.512	-21.9	-7.0	-7.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	269.855	274.296	256.427	-18.2	-5.0	-6.5
Medical care .....	463.774	464.167	464.155	2.6	0.1	0.0
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	110.086	110.219	109.184	0.1	-0.8	-0.9
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	142.080	142.212	143.403	-0.1	0.9	0.8
Other goods and services .....	381.913	383.469	382.921	-0.7	0.3	-0.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	228.588	229.527	228.826	-0.4	0.1	-0.3
Commodities .....	169.318	171.050	169.285	-3.2	0.0	-1.0
Commodities less food & beverages .....	132.446	134.196	131.613	-7.0	-0.6	-1.9
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	174.838	178.386	172.731	-10.5	-1.2	-3.2
Durables .....	91.842	91.891	92.213	0.0	0.4	0.4
Services .....	284.735	284.927	285.229	1.2	0.2	0.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	218.517	219.482	218.749	-0.7	0.1	-0.3
All items less shelter .....	208.549	209.710	208.343	-1.7	-0.1	-0.7
Commodities less food .....	136.536	138.255	135.733	-6.7	-0.6	-1.8
Nondurables .....	208.965	211.608	208.703	-4.0	-0.1	-1.4
Nondurables less food .....	179.528	182.909	177.550	-9.9	-1.1	-2.9
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	295.702	295.760	295.147	0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Services less medical care services .....	271.137	271.310	271.589	1.0	0.2	0.1
Energy .....	199.859	201.985	189.626	-19.4	-5.1	-6.1
All items less energy .....	233.130	233.963	234.369	1.4	0.5	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-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
All items less food and energy .....	232.497	233.181	233.621	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.