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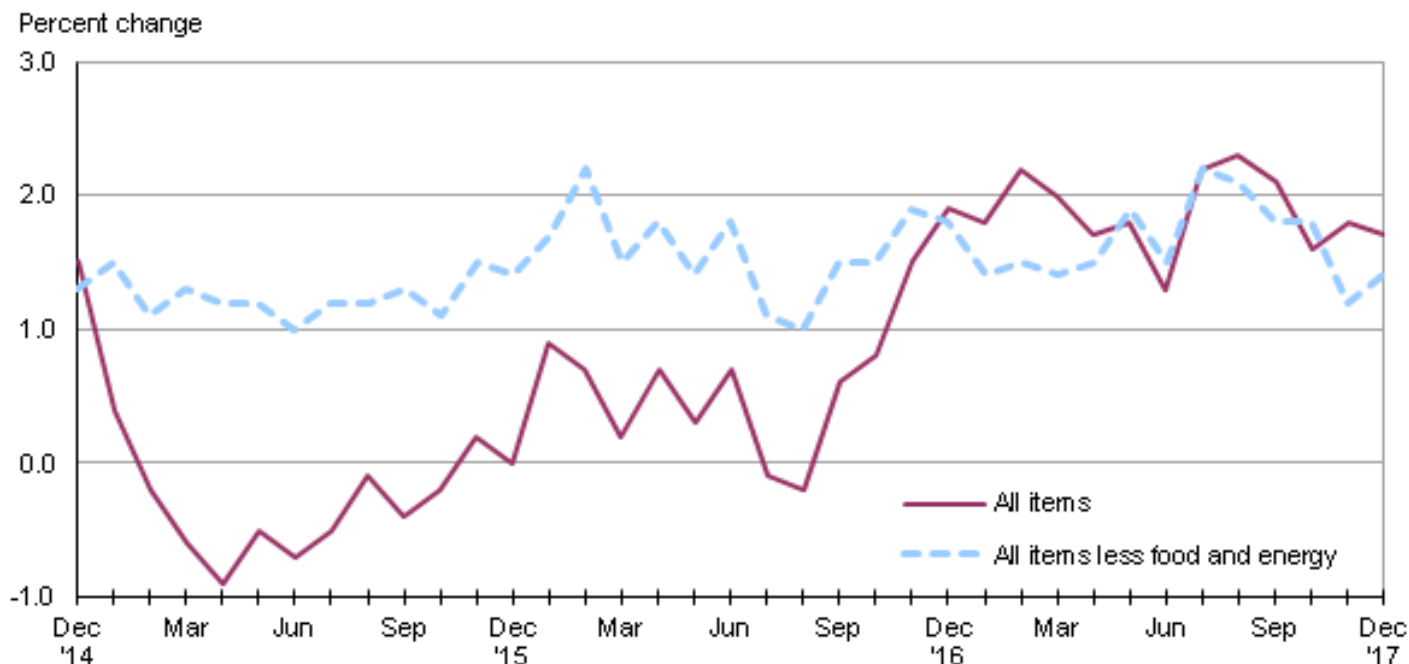
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — December 2017

Local prices rose 1.7 percent over the year

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. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that in December the energy index fell 2.3 percent, while the food index increased 0.1 percent. The all items less food and energy index declined 0.3 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were lower for shelter, apparel, and medical care, but higher for new and used motor vehicles and recreation. (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 1.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy costs rose 7.4 percent over the year, primarily due to an increase in gasoline prices. For the same period, the food index increased 0.8 percent. The all items less food and energy index was 1.4 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, December 2014–December 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were 0.1 percent higher in December. The food at home index (groceries) increased 0.2 percent, while the food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) index was unchanged. Within the food at home group, prices were higher in December for eggs; breakfast cereal; and rice, pasta, and cornmeal. In contrast, the index for other processed fruits and vegetables including dried was lower.

From December 2016 to December 2017, the food index increased 0.8 percent. Grocery prices rose 0.4 percent, and food away from home prices rose 1.2 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index declined 2.3 percent in December. The index for gasoline fell 6.2 percent. In contrast, the index for utility (piped) gas service rose 3.8 percent, while the electricity index was unchanged.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index rose 7.4 percent. From December 2016 to December 2017, the indexes rose for gasoline (10.7 percent), electricity (6.3 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (2.2 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy decreased 0.3 percent in December. Among the index's components, prices were lower for shelter (-0.5 percent), apparel (-3.1 percent), and medical care (-0.6 percent). Prices were higher for new and used motor vehicles and recreation (1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.4 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (2.2 percent) and recreation (5.8 percent), were major contributing factors.

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

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8
February.....	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2
March.....	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0
April.....	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7
May.....	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8
June.....	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0	0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3
July.....	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2
August.....	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3
September.....	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1	-0.3	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1
October.....	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6
November.....	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6	-0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8
December.....	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7

The January 2018 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be renamed. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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 and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

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. 2017	Nov. 2017	Dec. 2017	Dec. 2016	Oct. 2017	Nov. 2017
Expenditure category						
All items	234.159	235.206	234.293	1.7	0.1	-0.4
All items (1967=100)	699.570	702.697	699.970	-	-	-
Food and beverages	245.536	244.947	245.145	0.9	-0.2	0.1
Food	245.128	244.117	244.423	0.8	-0.3	0.1
Food at home	235.713	233.909	234.408	0.4	-0.6	0.2
Food away from home	253.649	253.910	253.904	1.2	0.1	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	249.816	255.455	254.065	3.6	1.7	-0.5
Housing	240.383	243.512	242.827	2.1	1.0	-0.3
Shelter	304.313	306.663	305.197	2.2	0.3	-0.5
Rent of primary residence(1)	325.122	326.010	327.048	3.1	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	309.658	310.528	311.093	2.1	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	309.658	310.528	311.093	2.1	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	192.020	204.531	206.655	4.5	7.6	1.0
Household energy	147.749	160.474	162.701	4.5	10.1	1.4
Energy services(1)	150.476	163.649	165.965	4.7	10.3	1.4
Electricity(1)	138.386	159.863	159.839	6.3	15.5	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	156.871	155.527	161.410	2.2	2.9	3.8
Household furnishings and operations	90.012	89.838	89.689	-1.8	-0.4	-0.2
Apparel	90.782	87.689	84.958	2.6	-6.4	-3.1
Transportation	181.768	185.122	182.472	1.5	0.4	-1.4
Private transportation	178.728	182.729	180.493	2.2	1.0	-1.2
Motor fuel	231.670	249.635	234.333	10.7	1.1	-6.1
Gasoline (all types)	229.298	247.150	231.900	10.7	1.1	-6.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	219.931	237.597	222.442	10.9	1.1	-6.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	257.066	275.752	259.656	9.8	1.0	-5.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	256.207	271.870	259.310	9.5	1.2	-4.6
Medical care	498.577	501.858	499.057	0.7	0.1	-0.6
Recreation(5)	116.468	110.621	111.776	5.8	-4.0	1.0
Education and communication(5)	143.709	143.305	143.855	-0.9	0.1	0.4
Other goods and services	387.616	393.375	391.364	0.8	1.0	-0.5
Commodity and service group						
All items	234.159	235.206	234.293	1.7	0.1	-0.4
Commodities	166.856	167.328	166.150	1.5	-0.4	-0.7
Commodities less food & beverages	127.099	127.973	126.300	1.9	-0.6	-1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	172.210	174.794	169.401	3.9	-1.6	-3.1
Durables	85.949	85.536	86.648	-0.6	0.8	1.3
Services	298.040	299.645	299.007	1.7	0.3	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	222.808	223.758	222.927	1.7	0.1	-0.4
All items less shelter	210.498	211.096	210.373	1.4	-0.1	-0.3
Commodities less food	131.489	132.492	130.808	2.0	-0.5	-1.3
Nondurables	209.473	210.544	207.807	2.2	-0.8	-1.3
Nondurables less food	177.397	180.163	174.966	3.8	-1.4	-2.9
Services less rent of shelter(2)	306.825	307.695	307.953	1.2	0.4	0.1
Services less medical care services	283.417	284.935	284.338	2.1	0.3	-0.2
Energy	179.986	194.718	190.155	7.4	5.6	-2.3
All items less energy	241.203	240.991	240.408	1.3	-0.3	-0.2
All items less food and energy	241.341	241.274	240.527	1.4	-0.3	-0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

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. Data not seasonally adjusted.