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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest

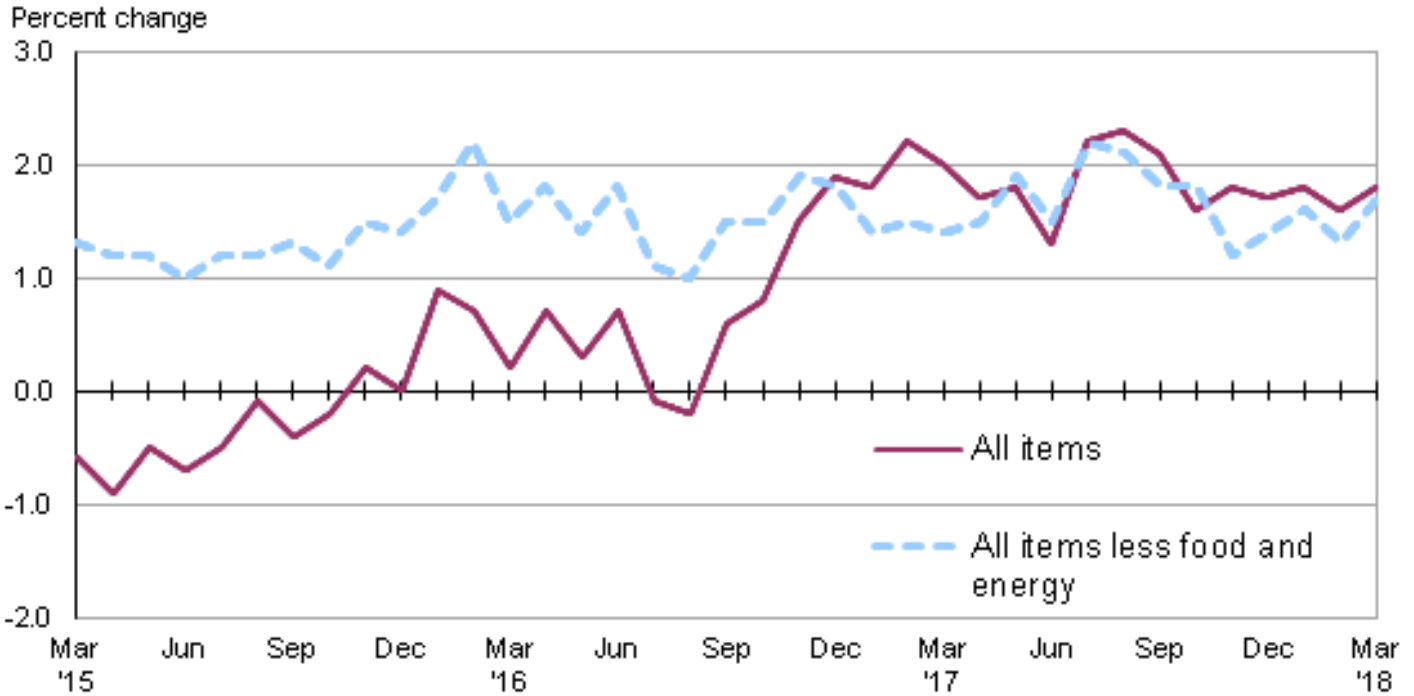
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — March 2018 **Local prices up 1.8 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area was unchanged in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that food prices were down 0.6 percent and the energy index declined 0.2 percent in March. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.2 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for household furnishing and operations, shelter, and other goods and services, but lower for recreation, apparel, and new and used motor vehicles. (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 1.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Over the year, the food and energy indexes rose 1.0 percent and 4.4 percent, respectively. The rise in the energy index was primarily due to higher gasoline prices. The all items less food and energy index was 1.7 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, March 2015–March 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were 0.6 percent lower in March. The food at home index (groceries) fell 1.2 percent, while the food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) index was unchanged. Within the food at home group, indexes were lower in March for other fresh vegetables; bacon, breakfast sausage, and related products; and potatoes.

From March 2017 to March 2018, the food index increased 1.0 percent. Food away from home prices rose 2.6 percent over the year, while grocery prices fell 0.2 percent from March a year ago.

Energy

The energy index decreased 0.2 percent in March, primarily due to a 2.9-percent decline in electricity costs. In contrast, gasoline prices and costs for utility (piped) gas advanced 1.1 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively, in March.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index rose 4.4 percent. From March 2017 to March 2018, gasoline prices rose 11.1 percent and the electricity index advanced 1.6 percent, while the index for utility (piped) gas service fell 6.4 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.2 percent in March. Among the index’s components, prices were higher for household furnishings and operations (1.8 percent), shelter (0.1 percent), and other goods and services (1.2 percent), but lower for recreation (-0.8 percent), apparel (-1.0 percent), and new and used motor vehicles (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.7 percent. A 3.3 percent increase in the shelter index was the major contributing factor.

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

Month	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8
February.....	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6
March.....	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8
April.....	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7		
May.....	-0.1	1.8	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8		
June.....	0.4	2.0	0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3		
July.....	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2		
August.....	0.1	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3		
September.....	0.0	2.1	-0.3	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1		
October.....	-0.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6		
November.....	-0.8	1.6	-0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8		
December.....	-0.4	1.5	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7		

The April 2018 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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-Naperville-Elgin, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, 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-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
Expenditure category						
All items.....	236.267	236.306	236.388	1.8	0.1	0.0
All items (1967=100).....	705.868	705.984	706.230	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	246.208	247.910	246.389	1.4	0.1	-0.6
Food.....	245.191	246.868	245.333	1.0	0.1	-0.6
Food at home.....	233.514	236.032	233.221	-0.2	-0.1	-1.2
Cereals and bakery products.....	256.960	257.868	258.379	-	0.6	0.2
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs.....	252.166	253.327	250.666	-	-0.6	-1.1
Dairy and related products.....	208.450	205.609	208.465	-	0.0	1.4
Fruits and vegetables.....	312.910	319.698	306.194	-	-2.1	-4.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	184.276	190.684	187.205	-	1.6	-1.8
Other food at home.....	187.592	189.527	189.092	-	0.8	-0.2
Food away from home.....	256.782	257.364	257.476	2.6	0.3	0.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	259.796	261.889	260.605	7.1	0.3	-0.5
Housing.....	244.800	245.310	245.805	2.5	0.4	0.2
Shelter.....	308.309	309.433	309.865	3.3	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence(2).....	327.885	328.097	328.539	3.3	0.2	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	312.532	313.735	314.822	3.1	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3).....	312.532	313.735	314.822	3.1	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	204.366	203.600	202.021	-0.9	-1.1	-0.8
Household energy.....	161.912	161.383	158.903	-1.7	-1.9	-1.5
Energy services(2).....	165.112	164.559	162.063	-1.7	-1.8	-1.5
Electricity(2).....	164.452	163.838	159.071	1.6	-3.3	-2.9
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	152.756	152.336	153.310	-6.4	0.4	0.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	90.704	90.256	91.844	-0.6	1.3	1.8
Apparel.....	88.596	86.682	85.785	2.7	-3.2	-1.0
Transportation.....	185.014	184.120	184.853	1.5	-0.1	0.4
Private transportation.....	182.091	180.416	181.092	1.5	-0.5	0.4
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	95.848	95.531	95.457	-	-0.4	-0.1
New vehicles(1).....	174.238	172.673	172.180	-	-1.2	-0.3
Used cars and trucks(1).....	262.637	265.439	269.682	-	2.7	1.6
Motor fuel.....	243.513	236.677	239.157	11.2	-1.8	1.0
Gasoline (all types).....	240.999	234.174	236.672	11.1	-1.8	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5).....	231.408	224.821	227.343	11.6	-1.8	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6).....	269.275	261.545	263.707	8.9	-2.1	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5).....	267.589	260.475	262.647	9.1	-1.8	0.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	536.418	536.170	536.319	-	0.0	0.0
Medical care.....	497.882	497.396	497.203	1.2	-0.1	0.0
Recreation(4).....	114.335	114.290	113.429	-0.1	-0.8	-0.8
Education and communication(4).....	143.121	143.224	143.666	0.2	0.4	0.3
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,183.808	1,183.808	1,183.808	-	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services.....	392.788	390.499	395.090	2.8	0.6	1.2
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	236.267	236.306	236.388	1.8	0.1	0.0
Commodities.....	167.420	166.612	166.674	1.3	-0.4	0.0
Commodities less food and beverages.....	127.538	125.952	126.540	1.3	-0.8	0.5
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	172.703	169.940	170.581	3.8	-1.2	0.4
Durables.....	86.368	85.717	86.223	-2.1	-0.2	0.6
Services.....	301.654	302.528	302.629	2.1	0.3	0.0

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-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	225.042	225.104	225.198	1.9	0.1	0.0
All items less shelter.....	211.957	211.617	211.577	1.0	-0.2	0.0
Commodities less food	132.155	130.617	131.178	1.5	-0.7	0.4
Nondurables	210.182	209.363	209.046	2.4	-0.5	-0.2
Nondurables less food.....	178.411	175.837	176.399	4.0	-1.1	0.3
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	310.209	310.848	310.595	0.7	0.1	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	286.993	287.988	288.154	2.3	0.4	0.1
Energy	193.657	190.434	190.130	4.4	-1.8	-0.2
All items less energy	242.254	242.603	242.722	1.6	0.2	0.0
All items less food and energy	242.553	242.688	243.075	1.7	0.2	0.2

Footnotes

(1) Index on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Index on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(6) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.