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## Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — February 2019

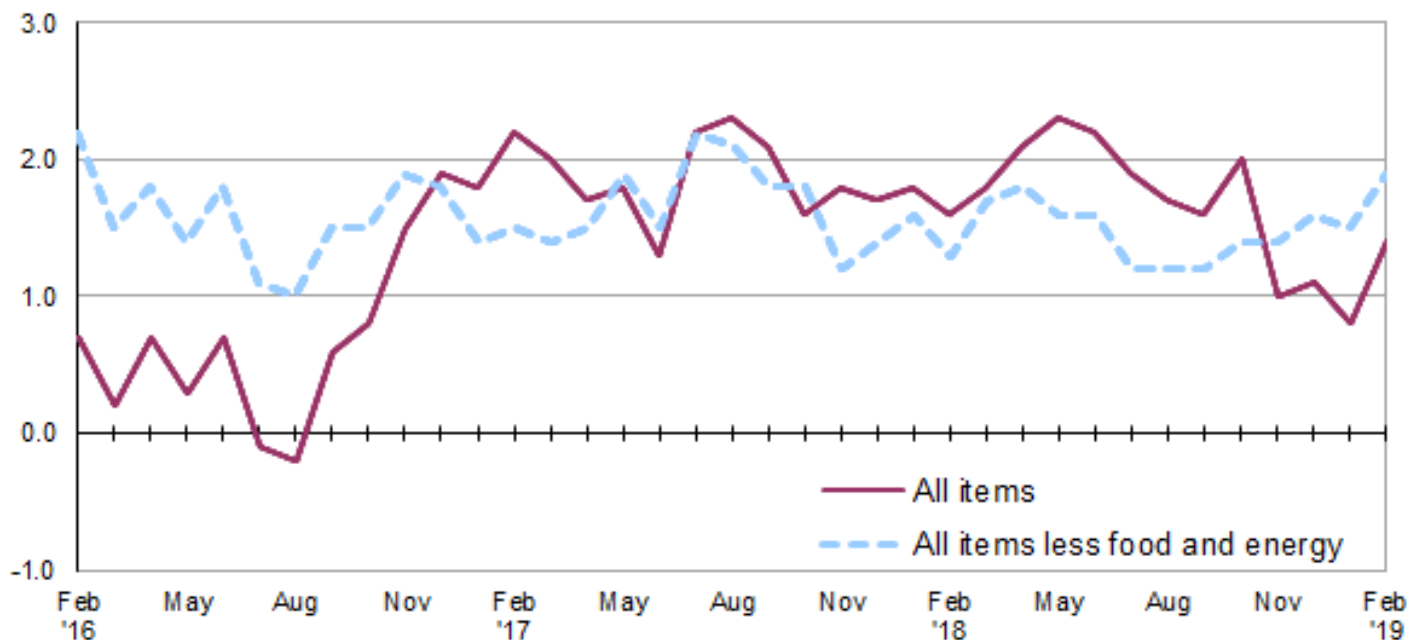
### Local prices rose 1.4 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area increased 0.6 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that food prices rose 0.5 percent and the energy index increased 3.4 percent in February. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.4 percent over the month. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for apparel and shelter over the month. (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 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Over the year, the energy index fell 5.1 percent. The decline in the energy index was primarily due to lower gasoline prices. The food index and the all items less food and energy index rose 2.3 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively, over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, February 2016–February 2019**

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices rose 0.5 percent in February. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 1.0 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) edged down 0.1 percent. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in February for potatoes, carbonated drinks, and chicken, while lower for tomatoes.

From February 2018 to February 2019, the food index increased 2.3 percent. Over the year, grocery prices increased 1.6 percent, while costs for food away from home rose 3.0 percent.

## Energy

The energy index increased 3.4 percent in February. During the same period, gasoline prices rose 8.8 percent. In February, electricity costs were unchanged, while utility (piped) gas service costs fell 4.1 percent.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index fell 5.1 percent. From February 2018 to February 2019, gasoline prices and electricity prices fell 10.0 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. Utility (piped) gas service costs increased 1.2 percent over the year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent in February. Among the index's components, prices were higher for apparel (6.0 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (2.9 percent) and medical care (2.5 percent) over the year were contributing factors.

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

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.8
February.....	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.6	1.4
March.....	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8		
April.....	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	2.1		
May.....	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3		
June.....	0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2		
July.....	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9		
August.....	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7		
September.....	-0.3	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.6		
October.....	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6	0.0	2.0		
November.....	-0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8	-0.6	1.0		
December.....	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7	-0.3	1.1		

**The March 2019 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, April 10, 2019.**

## 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](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/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://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, IL-IN-WI, 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.

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**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-		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	236.796	238.218	239.669	1.4	1.2	0.6
All items (1967=100) .....	707.446	711.695	716.030	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	249.765	251.866	253.094	2.1	1.3	0.5
Food .....	248.944	251.246	252.424	2.3	1.4	0.5
Food at home .....	233.684	237.538	239.795	1.6	2.6	1.0
Cereals and bakery products .....	259.640	264.429	266.273	3.3	2.6	0.7
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs .....	249.942	251.028	256.487	1.2	2.6	2.2
Dairy and related products .....	208.431	210.614	213.362	3.8	2.4	1.3
Fruits and vegetables .....	311.582	322.427	323.345	1.1	3.8	0.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	188.709	191.976	196.862	3.2	4.3	2.5
Other food at home .....	187.363	189.714	189.499	0.0	1.1	-0.1
Food away from home .....	265.049	265.341	265.129	3.0	0.0	-0.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	260.212	259.089	261.104	-0.3	0.3	0.8
Housing .....	250.166	251.759	251.967	2.7	0.7	0.1
Shelter .....	316.087	317.912	318.536	2.9	0.8	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2) .....	336.495	337.168	337.025	2.7	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3) .....	324.089	325.159	325.373	3.7	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3) .....	324.089	325.159	325.373	3.7	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities .....	208.655	210.178	207.556	1.9	-0.5	-1.2
Household energy .....	163.350	164.738	162.038	0.4	-0.8	-1.6
Energy services(2) .....	166.612	168.039	165.209	0.4	-0.8	-1.7
Electricity(2) .....	157.902	163.447	163.432	-0.2	3.5	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2) .....	165.432	160.810	154.160	1.2	-6.8	-4.1
Household furnishings and operations .....	90.262	91.210	91.693	1.6	1.6	0.5
Apparel .....	81.197	83.447	88.446	2.0	8.9	6.0
Transportation .....	178.453	178.081	181.862	-1.2	1.9	2.1
Private transportation .....	174.985	174.388	178.381	-1.1	1.9	2.3
New and used motor vehicles(4) .....	95.459	96.742	97.292	1.8	1.9	0.6
New vehicles(1) .....	172.484	174.875	176.023	1.9	2.1	0.7
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	263.530	265.184	266.241	0.3	1.0	0.4
Motor fuel .....	204.212	196.029	213.190	-9.9	4.4	8.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	201.810	193.754	210.828	-10.0	4.5	8.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5) .....	193.675	185.562	202.427	-10.0	4.5	9.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6) .....	227.201	219.979	237.395	-9.2	4.5	7.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5) .....	228.621	224.022	237.378	-8.9	3.8	6.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	554.435	554.435	554.435	3.4	0.0	0.0
Medical care .....	505.970	510.187	509.601	2.5	0.7	-0.1
Recreation(4) .....	111.485	113.224	113.046	-1.1	1.4	-0.2
Education and communication(4) .....	141.704	141.771	142.033	-0.8	0.2	0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,175.348	1,176.216	1,175.261	-0.7	0.0	-0.1
Other goods and services .....	392.895	390.962	393.986	0.9	0.3	0.8
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	236.796	238.218	239.669	1.4	1.2	0.6
Commodities .....	163.869	165.178	167.323	0.4	2.1	1.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	121.885	122.823	125.104	-0.7	2.6	1.9
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	161.024	161.638	167.176	-1.6	3.8	3.4
Durables .....	85.311	86.397	86.256	0.6	1.1	-0.2
Services .....	306.200	307.719	308.469	2.0	0.7	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-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	225.239	226.540	228.082	1.3	1.3	0.7
All items less shelter .....	209.956	211.243	212.988	0.6	1.4	0.8
Commodities less food .....	126.534	127.445	129.757	-0.7	2.5	1.8
Nondurables .....	205.078	206.378	210.112	0.4	2.5	1.8
Nondurables less food .....	167.153	167.695	173.133	-1.5	3.6	3.2
Services less rent of shelter(3) .....	311.455	312.706	313.582	0.9	0.7	0.3
Services less medical care services .....	291.620	293.018	293.842	2.0	0.8	0.3
Energy .....	177.589	174.844	180.717	-5.1	1.8	3.4
All items less energy .....	244.358	246.186	247.230	1.9	1.2	0.4
All items less food and energy .....	244.397	246.154	247.180	1.9	1.1	0.4

**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.