



For Release: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

19-928-CHI

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 — May 2019

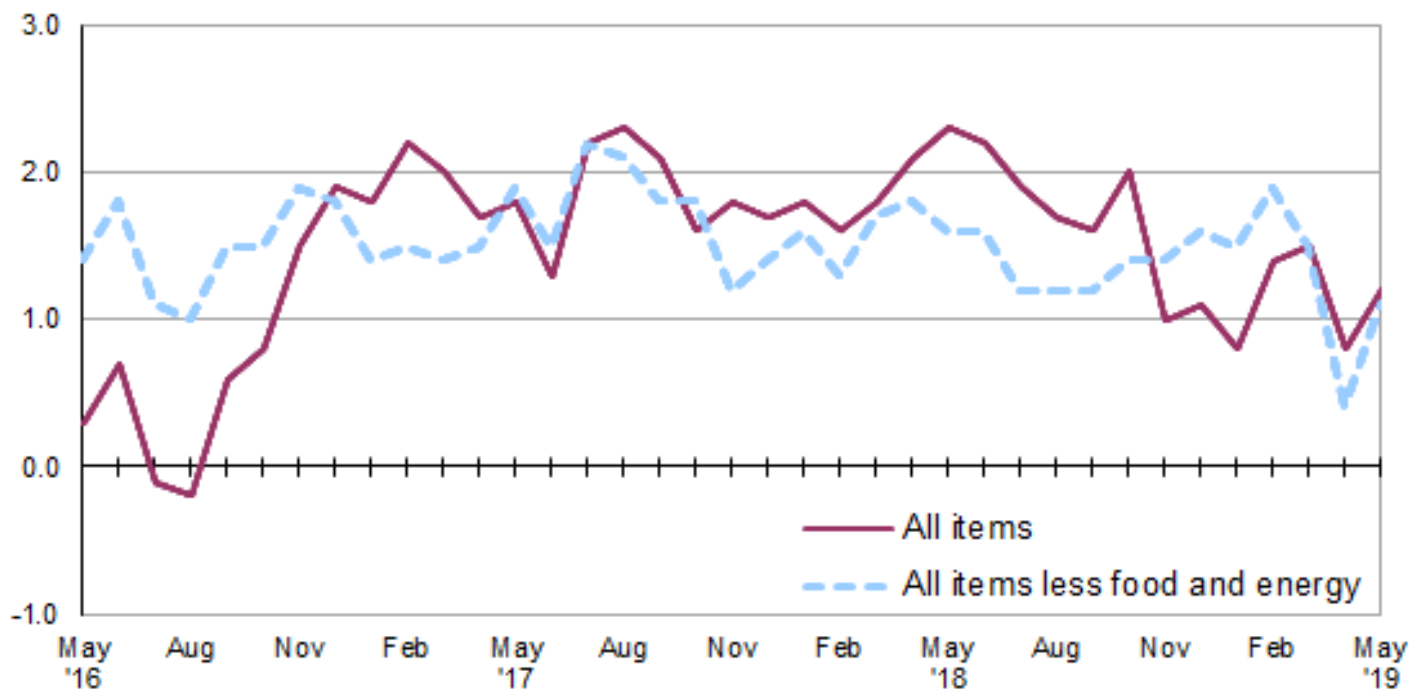
Local prices up 1.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area increased 0.8 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that food prices rose 0.7 percent and the energy index increased 1.6 percent in May. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.8 percent over the month. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher over the month for medical care and shelter. (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 1.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Over the year, the energy index edged up 0.1 percent. The food index and the all items less food and energy index rose 2.4 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively, over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.7 percent in May. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 0.5 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 0.9 percent. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in May for uncooked beef roasts, lettuce, and canned fruits and vegetables; while lower for spices, seasonings, condiments, sauces; and uncooked ground beef.

From May 2018 to May 2019, the food index increased 2.4 percent. Over the year, grocery prices increased 1.3 percent, while costs for food away from home rose 3.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 1.6 percent in May. During the same period, gasoline prices rose 3.3 percent. In May, electricity costs fell 2.5 percent, while utility (piped) gas service costs rose 2.4 percent.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index edged up 0.1 percent. From May 2018 to May 2019, gasoline prices and electricity prices increased 0.9 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively. Utility (piped) gas service costs fell 6.0 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.8 percent in May. Among the index's components, prices were higher over the month for medical care (5.2 percent) and shelter (0.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.1 percent. An increase in the shelter index of 2.9 percent over the year was a 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	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	0.1	1.5
April.....	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	2.1	-0.1	0.8
May.....	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3	0.8	1.2
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 June 2019 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Thursday, July 11, 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 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, 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.

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-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
Expenditure category						
All items	240.019	239.726	241.758	1.2	0.7	0.8
All items (1967=100)	717.078	716.200	722.273	-	-	-
Food and beverages	250.878	251.158	252.645	2.2	0.7	0.6
Food	250.201	250.419	252.177	2.4	0.8	0.7
Food at home	235.401	234.449	235.649	1.3	0.1	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	260.574	262.630	267.095	3.5	2.5	1.7
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	251.520	253.935	252.853	0.5	0.5	-0.4
Dairy and related products	210.761	211.584	211.525	1.8	0.4	0.0
Fruits and vegetables	310.498	303.830	309.203	2.0	-0.4	1.8
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	192.026	192.811	191.282	2.7	-0.4	-0.8
Other food at home	189.781	187.316	188.173	-0.3	-0.8	0.5
Food away from home	265.703	267.410	269.857	3.6	1.6	0.9
Alcoholic beverages	259.026	260.275	257.428	-0.3	-0.6	-1.1
Housing	251.639	252.323	253.550	2.1	0.8	0.5
Shelter	319.278	320.302	322.367	2.9	1.0	0.6
Rent of primary residence(2)	338.592	339.272	341.088	3.6	0.7	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	326.161	326.744	328.744	3.5	0.8	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	326.161	326.744	328.744	3.5	0.8	0.6
Fuels and utilities	205.512	206.878	205.675	0.3	0.1	-0.6
Household energy	158.545	160.210	159.131	-1.0	0.4	-0.7
Energy services(2)	161.618	163.345	162.251	-1.0	0.4	-0.7
Electricity(2)	163.355	167.786	163.588	3.3	0.1	-2.5
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	145.803	143.495	146.962	-6.0	0.8	2.4
Household furnishings and operations	89.545	89.027	89.233	-2.0	-0.3	0.2
Apparel	86.560	85.949	85.015	2.2	-1.8	-1.1
Transportation	187.012	192.147	194.333	0.8	3.9	1.1
Private transportation	183.529	188.458	189.801	0.6	3.4	0.7
New and used motor vehicles(4)	95.755	96.359	95.831	0.4	0.1	-0.5
New vehicles(1)	174.440	173.934	172.532	0.8	-1.1	-0.8
Used cars and trucks(1)	269.512	270.140	267.497	0.5	-0.7	-1.0
Motor fuel	243.864	270.769	279.551	0.8	14.6	3.2
Gasoline (all types)	241.378	268.170	276.898	0.9	14.7	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	232.376	258.596	267.280	0.9	15.0	3.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	267.596	295.800	303.169	0.9	13.3	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	265.458	289.804	296.857	0.7	11.8	2.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	552.335	530.637	530.637	-0.3	-3.9	0.0
Medical care	506.633	474.623	499.410	-1.0	-1.4	5.2
Recreation(4)	112.794	111.791	112.089	-0.1	-0.6	0.3
Education and communication(4)	141.432	140.647	140.119	-2.4	-0.9	-0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1)	1,175.303	1,175.303	1,172.322	-1.1	-0.3	-0.3
Other goods and services	402.569	403.238	401.779	1.9	-0.2	-0.4
Commodity and service group						
All items	240.019	239.726	241.758	1.2	0.7	0.8
Commodities	168.279	170.117	170.595	1.0	1.4	0.3
Commodities less food and beverages	127.048	129.262	129.363	0.3	1.8	0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	173.134	178.853	180.011	1.2	4.0	0.6
Durables	85.281	84.908	84.272	-1.0	-1.2	-0.7
Services	308.220	305.826	309.371	1.3	0.4	1.2

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-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	228.578	229.677	230.713	1.4	0.9	0.5
All items less shelter	213.203	212.448	214.477	0.3	0.6	1.0
Commodities less food	131.652	133.882	133.926	0.3	1.7	0.0
Nondurables	212.536	215.946	217.282	1.7	2.2	0.6
Nondurables less food	178.793	184.371	185.362	1.1	3.7	0.5
Services less rent of shelter(3)	312.249	306.055	311.348	-0.5	-0.3	1.7
Services less medical care services	293.726	294.078	295.500	1.5	0.6	0.5
Energy	191.949	204.406	207.579	0.1	8.1	1.6
All items less energy	246.554	245.051	246.993	1.3	0.2	0.8
All items less food and energy	246.752	244.966	246.944	1.1	0.1	0.8

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.