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Consumer Price Index, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington — March 2019

Local prices up 2.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington area rose 1.4 percent from January to March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the food index rose 0.5 percent and the energy index increased 8.2 percent over the bi-monthly period. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.1 percent from January to March. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for new and used motor vehicles, shelter, and medical care. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the past 12 months, the Minneapolis all items CPI-U increased 2.3 percent. (See [table A](#).) The food index rose 1.1 percent while the energy index declined 0.6 percent from March 2018 to March 2019. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices increased 0.5 percent from January to March. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) rose 0.7 percent and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 0.2 percent over the bi-monthly period.

Over the year, food prices in the Minneapolis area were up 1.1 percent. Prices for groceries increased 0.4 percent, while food away from home prices rose 1.9 percent from March 2018.

Energy

The energy index for Minneapolis was 8.2 percent higher from January to March. Gasoline prices increased 19.5 percent for the bi-monthly period. Utility (piped) gas service costs and electricity costs were down 10.0 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively, during the same period.

From March 2018 to March 2019, overall energy prices declined 0.6 percent. Utility (piped) gas service costs decreased 6.9 percent and gasoline prices declined 0.8 percent over the year. Electricity costs increased 4.0 percent from March 2018.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.1 percent from January to March. Among the index's components, prices were higher for new and used motor vehicles (4.4 percent), shelter (0.7 percent), and medical care (1.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (3.7 percent), medical care (5.4 percent), and new and used motor vehicles (4.1 percent) were contributing factors.

Table A. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2018		2019	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.3		0.4	1.4
March.....	0.5		1.4	2.3
May.....	1.0			
July.....	0.3			
September.....	0.3			
November.....	-1.2	1.3		

The May 2019 Consumer Price Index for Minneapolis is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 12, 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 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 **Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, and Wright Counties and Pierce and St. Croix Counties 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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
Expenditure category						
All items.....	245.200	-	248.706	2.3	1.4	-
All items (1967=100).....	770.548	-	781.566	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	281.578	-	282.890	1.1	0.5	-
Food.....	270.765	-	271.986	1.1	0.5	-
Food at home.....	247.050	250.015	248.732	0.4	0.7	-0.5
Cereals and bakery products.....	270.995	-	272.776	-2.0	0.7	-
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs.....	259.144	-	266.378	2.2	2.8	-
Dairy and related products.....	273.955	-	271.639	0.3	-0.8	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	348.041	-	341.751	-2.3	-1.8	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	154.031	-	158.614	4.4	3.0	-
Other food at home.....	197.102	-	197.957	0.6	0.4	-
Food away from home.....	304.596	-	305.142	1.9	0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	374.837	-	377.210	1.3	0.6	-
Housing.....	232.933	-	234.189	3.1	0.5	-
Shelter.....	275.088	275.280	277.110	3.7	0.7	0.7
Rent of primary residence(2).....	280.454	281.471	282.177	3.8	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	288.723	288.848	289.701	3.6	0.3	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3).....	288.723	288.848	289.701	3.6	0.3	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	218.163	-	211.836	0.4	-2.9	-
Household energy.....	195.702	187.278	188.164	-0.4	-3.9	0.5
Energy services(2).....	199.252	190.313	191.134	-0.3	-4.1	0.4
Electricity(2).....	264.747	255.010	264.116	4.0	-0.2	3.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	143.206	134.988	128.863	-6.9	-10.0	-4.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	117.996	-	120.235	1.6	1.9	-
Apparel.....	133.724	-	137.334	5.3	2.7	-
Transportation.....	191.845	-	202.537	1.0	5.6	-
Private transportation.....	177.178	-	188.052	1.9	6.1	-
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	88.935	-	92.889	4.1	4.4	-
New vehicles(1).....	149.621	-	159.304	6.8	6.5	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	274.816	-	276.767	-0.3	0.7	-
Motor fuel.....	174.891	185.089	208.698	-0.8	19.3	12.8
Gasoline (all types).....	174.974	185.300	209.139	-0.8	19.5	12.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5).....	174.570	185.118	209.369	-1.0	19.9	13.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6).....	181.195	192.172	215.067	1.3	18.7	11.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5).....	225.893	234.831	259.679	0.9	15.0	10.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	507.594	-	499.357	-1.6	-1.6	-
Medical care.....	545.186	-	553.468	5.4	1.5	-
Recreation(4).....	128.252	-	130.518	1.1	1.8	-
Education and communication(4).....	139.485	-	138.644	-0.1	-0.6	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,130.940	-	1,130.940	0.2	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....	371.150	-	370.995	-0.8	0.0	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	245.200	-	248.706	2.3	1.4	-
Commodities.....	182.078	-	187.600	1.4	3.0	-
Commodities less food and beverages.....	139.069	-	145.416	1.5	4.6	-
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	180.732	-	191.768	0.9	6.1	-
Durables.....	102.671	-	105.528	2.3	2.8	-
Services.....	301.385	-	303.050	2.8	0.6	-

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 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	231.699	-	234.990	2.0	1.4	-
All items less shelter	233.439	-	237.613	1.6	1.8	-
Commodities less food	147.208	-	153.662	1.5	4.4	-
Nondurables	227.484	-	234.615	1.0	3.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	193.444	-	204.385	0.9	5.7	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	344.739	-	345.931	1.9	0.3	-
Services less medical care services.....	279.216	-	280.418	2.4	0.4	-
Energy	186.177	188.000	201.506	-0.6	8.2	7.2
All items less energy	254.843	-	257.366	2.5	1.0	-
All items less food and energy	252.592	-	255.296	2.7	1.1	-

Footnotes

(1) Index on an April 1978=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.