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Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — February 2020

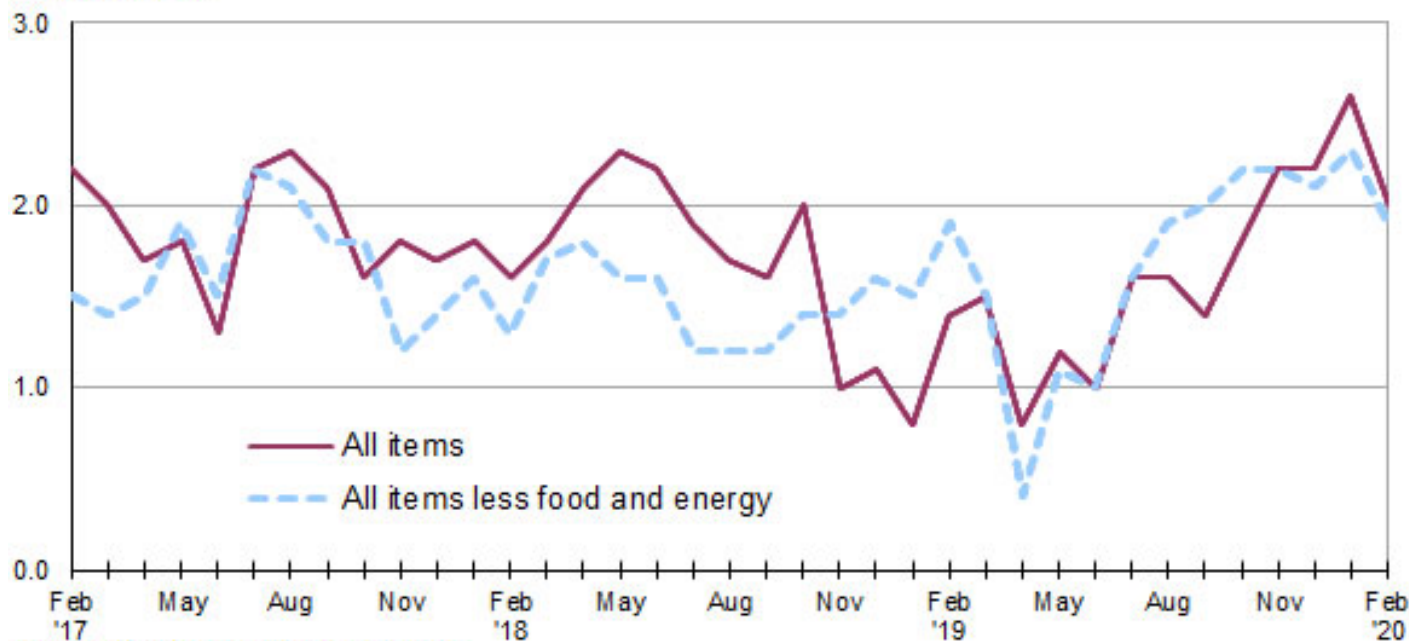
Local prices up 2.0 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area was unchanged in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the index for food was up 0.3 percent and the energy index fell 0.2 percent over the month. The all items less food and energy index was unchanged in February. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher over the month for new and used motor vehicles, other goods and services, and shelter, but lower for apparel 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 2.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Over the year, the all items less food and energy index rose 1.9 percent, while the energy and food indexes were up 5.1 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, February 2017–February 2020

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.3 percent in February. 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) were unchanged. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in February for nonfrozen noncarbonated juices and drinks; other meats; and cheese and related products.

From February 2019 to February 2020, the food index increased 1.1 percent. Over the year, grocery prices were down 0.3 percent, and costs for food away from home were up 2.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 0.2 percent in February. Among the index's components, prices were lower for gasoline (-2.0 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-0.2 percent). The electricity index was higher over the month, up 2.6 percent.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index rose 5.1 percent. From February 2019 to February 2020, gasoline prices were up 9.0 percent and the electricity index increased 4.4 percent. Utility (piped) gas service costs were 4.5 percent lower over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in February. Among the index's components, prices were higher over the month for new and used motor vehicles (1.3 percent), other goods and services (1.6 percent), and shelter (0.2 percent), but lower for apparel (-3.5 percent) and recreation (-1.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.9 percent. Contributing factors included increases in the indexes for shelter (2.6 percent) and medical care (4.6 percent).

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

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	2.6
February.....	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.6	1.4	0.0	2.0
March.....	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8	0.1	1.5		
April.....	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	2.1	-0.1	0.8		
May.....	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3	0.8	1.2		
June.....	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2	-0.4	1.0		
July.....	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6		
August.....	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	1.6		
September.....	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.2	1.4		
October.....	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6	0.0	2.0	0.3	1.8		
November.....	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8	-0.6	1.0	-0.2	2.2		
December.....	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7	-0.3	1.1	-0.2	2.2		

The March 2020 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 10, 2020.

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-		
	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	242.079	244.361	244.407	2.0	1.0	0.0
All items (1967=100)	723.231	730.049	730.185	-	-	-
Food and beverages	253.181	255.004	255.505	1.0	0.9	0.2
Food	252.756	254.536	255.290	1.1	1.0	0.3
Food at home	235.284	237.718	238.993	-0.3	1.6	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	263.842	267.432	269.129	1.1	2.0	0.6
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	255.223	255.928	258.974	1.0	1.5	1.2
Dairy and related products	215.887	210.087	219.665	3.0	1.7	4.6
Fruits and vegetables	303.330	315.885	306.541	-5.2	1.1	-3.0
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	192.913	194.355	200.437	1.8	3.9	3.1
Other food at home	187.435	189.030	188.791	-0.4	0.7	-0.1
Food away from home	271.631	272.445	272.445	2.8	0.3	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	257.280	259.653	256.885	-1.6	-0.2	-1.1
Housing	254.717	256.661	257.240	2.1	1.0	0.2
Shelter	324.498	326.418	326.946	2.6	0.8	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2)	345.458	346.449	347.141	3.0	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	333.408	334.705	335.642	3.2	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	333.408	334.705	335.642	3.2	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities	205.019	208.691	211.158	1.7	3.0	1.2
Household energy	157.354	160.960	163.454	0.9	3.9	1.5
Energy services(2)	160.452	164.169	166.725	0.9	3.9	1.6
Electricity(2)	161.795	166.277	170.602	4.4	5.4	2.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	145.303	147.574	147.284	-4.5	1.4	-0.2
Household furnishings and operations	88.791	89.797	89.614	-2.3	0.9	-0.2
Apparel	83.120	89.776	86.594	-2.1	4.2	-3.5
Transportation	183.736	185.827	186.324	2.5	1.4	0.3
Private transportation	181.875	183.175	183.677	3.0	1.0	0.3
New and used motor vehicles(4)	95.953	95.571	96.853	-0.5	0.9	1.3
New vehicles(1)	174.883	172.503	175.660	-0.2	0.4	1.8
Used cars and trucks(1)	262.771	260.898	263.512	-1.0	0.3	1.0
Motor fuel	233.130	237.024	232.225	8.9	-0.4	-2.0
Gasoline (all types)	230.624	234.538	229.843	9.0	-0.3	-2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	221.800	225.703	221.087	9.2	-0.3	-2.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	256.058	260.024	255.672	7.7	-0.2	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	256.586	259.167	254.880	7.4	-0.7	-1.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	547.509	542.238	546.859	-1.4	-0.1	0.9
Medical care	526.094	-	532.972	4.6	1.3	-
Recreation(4)	116.495	116.432	114.606	1.4	-1.6	-1.6
Education and communication(4)	142.568	143.223	142.628	0.4	0.0	-0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,205.734	1,205.734	1,209.724	2.9	0.3	0.3
Other goods and services	402.228	400.766	407.236	3.4	1.2	1.6
Commodity and service group						
All items	242.079	244.361	244.407	2.0	1.0	0.0
Commodities	167.145	168.745	168.553	0.7	0.8	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	124.851	126.264	125.834	0.6	0.8	-0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	168.669	172.031	170.833	2.2	1.3	-0.7
Durables	84.821	84.885	84.973	-1.5	0.2	0.1
Services	313.407	316.336	316.641	2.6	1.0	0.1

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. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	229.876	232.026	232.001	1.7	0.9	0.0
All items less shelter	214.166	216.561	216.448	1.6	1.1	-0.1
Commodities less food	129.430	130.880	130.387	0.5	0.7	-0.4
Nondurables	211.009	213.679	213.276	1.5	1.1	-0.2
Nondurables less food	174.403	177.713	176.418	1.9	1.2	-0.7
Services less rent of shelter ⁽³⁾	317.475	321.621	321.697	2.6	1.3	0.0
Services less medical care services	297.246	299.841	300.138	2.1	1.0	0.1
Energy	186.689	190.388	189.952	5.1	1.7	-0.2
All items less energy	249.323	251.506	251.593	1.8	0.9	0.0
All items less food and energy	249.565	251.827	251.795	1.9	0.9	0.0

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.