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

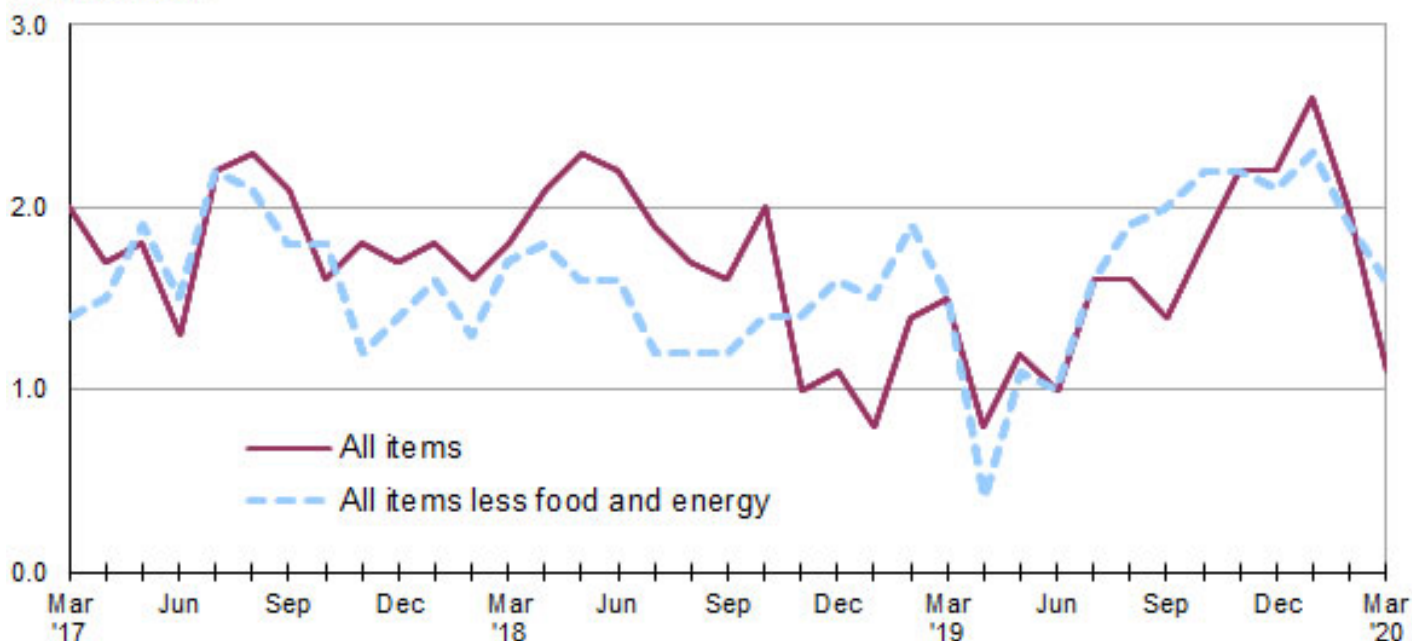
Local prices up 1.1 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area was down 0.7 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the index for food was up 0.4 percent, and the energy index fell 6.6 percent over the month. The all items less food and energy index decreased 0.5 percent in March. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were lower over the month for new vehicles, apparel, and recreation, but higher for 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 1.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Over the year, the all items less food and energy index rose 1.6 percent. The food index was up 2.4 percent, and the energy index declined 7.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

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

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.4 percent in March. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 0.6 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were up 0.2 percent. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in March for carbonated drinks, snacks, and frozen and freeze-dried prepared foods.

From March 2019 to March 2020, the food index increased 2.4 percent. Over the year, grocery prices were up 2.1 percent, and costs for food away from home rose 2.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 6.6 percent in March. Among the index's components, prices were lower for gasoline (-10.2 percent), electricity (-4.1 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (-1.7 percent).

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index fell 7.6 percent. From March 2019 to March 2020, gasoline prices were down 14.5 percent, and the utility (piped) gas service index fell 0.7 percent. The electricity index was 0.2 percent higher over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy fell 0.5 percent in March. Among the index's components, prices were lower over the month for new vehicles (-1.9 percent), apparel (-2.3 percent), and recreation (-1.4 percent), but higher for shelter (+0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. Contributing factors included increases in the indexes for shelter (+2.6 percent) and medical care (+5.1 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	-0.7	1.1
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 April 2020 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on March 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) program suspended data collection by personal visit on March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in March was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices being considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI.

Specific information about the impact of COVID-19 on March 2020 CPI data collection is available at www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/covid19-statement-march-2020.htm.

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-		
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	244.361	244.407	242.655	1.1	-0.7	-0.7
All items (1967=100)	730.049	730.185	724.952	-	-	-
Food and beverages	255.004	255.505	256.559	2.3	0.6	0.4
Food	254.536	255.290	256.325	2.4	0.7	0.4
Food at home	237.718	238.993	240.375	2.1	1.1	0.6
Cereals and bakery products	267.432	269.129	268.312	3.0	0.3	-0.3
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	255.928	258.974	254.515	1.2	-0.6	-1.7
Dairy and related products	210.087	219.665	218.368	3.6	3.9	-0.6
Fruits and vegetables	315.885	306.541	309.545	-0.3	-2.0	1.0
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	194.355	200.437	204.919	6.7	5.4	2.2
Other food at home	189.030	188.791	193.464	1.9	2.3	2.5
Food away from home	272.445	272.445	272.968	2.7	0.2	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	259.653	256.885	258.169	-0.3	-0.6	0.5
Housing	256.661	257.240	256.879	2.1	0.1	-0.1
Shelter	326.418	326.946	327.720	2.6	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2)	346.449	347.141	347.474	2.6	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	334.705	335.642	336.407	3.1	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	334.705	335.642	336.407	3.1	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	208.691	211.158	206.240	0.4	-1.2	-2.3
Household energy	160.960	163.454	158.176	-0.2	-1.7	-3.2
Energy services(2)	164.169	166.725	161.367	-0.2	-1.7	-3.2
Electricity(2)	166.277	170.602	163.667	0.2	-1.6	-4.1
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	147.574	147.284	144.716	-0.7	-1.9	-1.7
Household furnishings and operations	89.797	89.614	88.746	-0.9	-1.2	-1.0
Apparel	89.776	86.594	84.616	-2.2	-5.7	-2.3
Transportation	185.827	186.324	178.064	-4.8	-4.2	-4.4
Private transportation	183.175	183.677	178.432	-2.8	-2.6	-2.9
New and used motor vehicles(4)	95.571	96.853	96.071	0.3	0.5	-0.8
New vehicles(1)	172.503	175.660	172.315	-1.2	-0.1	-1.9
Used cars and trucks(1)	260.898	263.512	270.063	0.2	3.5	2.5
Motor fuel	237.024	232.225	208.787	-14.4	-11.9	-10.1
Gasoline (all types)	234.538	229.843	206.470	-14.5	-12.0	-10.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	225.703	221.087	198.107	-14.7	-12.2	-10.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	260.024	255.672	230.945	-13.7	-11.2	-9.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	259.167	254.880	235.425	-11.3	-9.2	-7.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	542.238	546.859	545.270	-1.3	0.6	-0.3
Medical care	-	532.972	532.510	5.1	-	-0.1
Recreation(4)	116.432	114.606	113.031	0.2	-2.9	-1.4
Education and communication(4)	143.223	142.628	142.825	1.0	-0.3	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,205.734	1,209.724	1,209.724	2.9	0.3	0.0
Other goods and services	400.766	407.236	410.371	1.9	2.4	0.8
Commodity and service group						
All items	244.361	244.407	242.655	1.1	-0.7	-0.7
Commodities	168.745	168.553	166.751	-0.9	-1.2	-1.1
Commodities less food and beverages	126.264	125.834	123.119	-3.1	-2.5	-2.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	172.031	170.833	164.048	-5.2	-4.6	-4.0
Durables	84.885	84.973	85.047	-0.3	0.2	0.1
Services	316.336	316.641	315.028	2.2	-0.4	-0.5

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. 2020	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	232.026	232.001	230.181	0.7	-0.8	-0.8
All items less shelter	216.561	216.448	213.868	0.3	-1.2	-1.2
Commodities less food	130.880	130.387	127.748	-3.0	-2.4	-2.0
Nondurables	213.679	213.276	210.141	-1.1	-1.7	-1.5
Nondurables less food	177.713	176.418	170.102	-4.9	-4.3	-3.6
Services less rent of shelter(3)	321.621	321.697	317.415	1.7	-1.3	-1.3
Services less medical care services	299.841	300.138	298.302	1.6	-0.5	-0.6
Energy	190.388	189.952	177.447	-7.6	-6.8	-6.6
All items less energy	251.506	251.593	250.757	1.7	-0.3	-0.3
All items less food and energy	251.827	251.795	250.616	1.6	-0.5	-0.5

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.