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

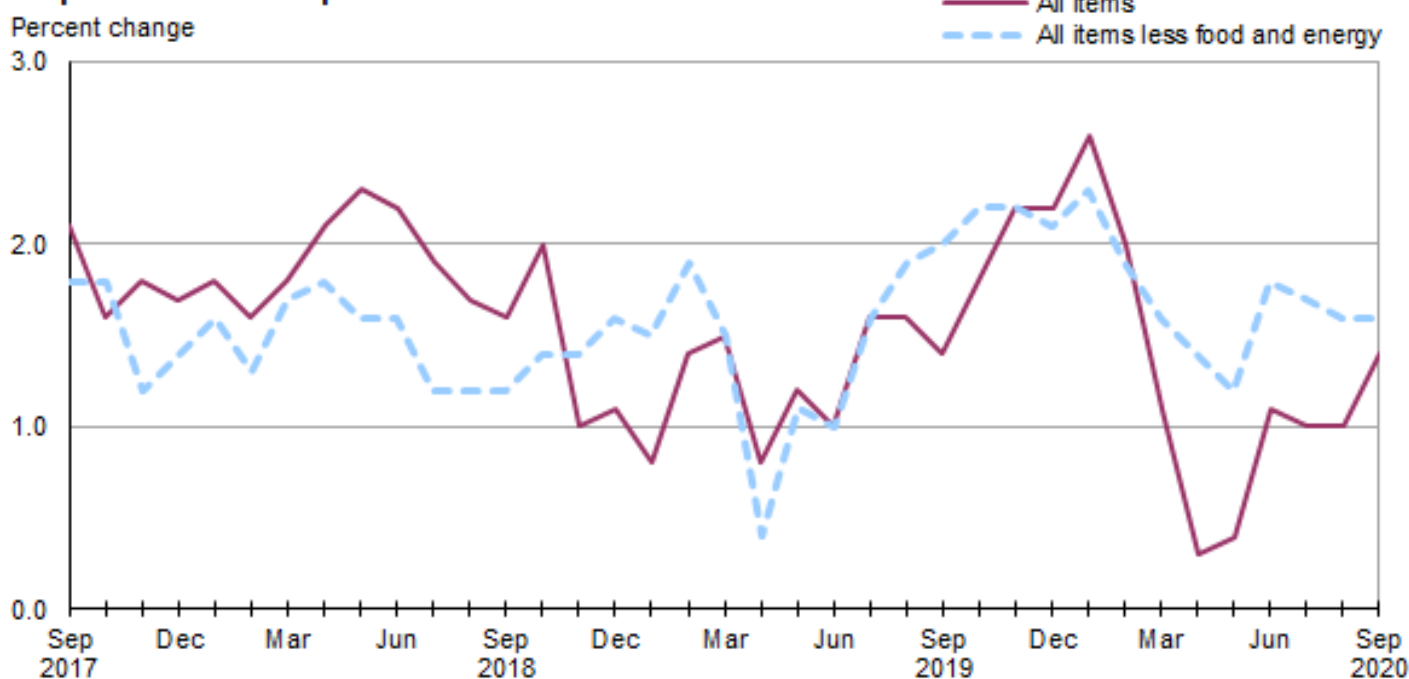
Area prices were up 0.6 percent over the past month, up 1.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.6 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

Regional Commissioner Jason Palmer noted that food prices increased 1.9 percent and the energy index was down 1.1 percent in September. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent in September due to higher prices for apparel and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent over the year. Food prices rose 4.2 percent. Energy prices declined 8.2 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.9 percent for the month of September. Prices for food at home (groceries) declined 0.1 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) advanced 4.6 percent for the same period. Within the food at home group, indexes were higher in September for carbonated drinks; fresh fish and seafood; and frozen and freeze dried prepared foods, while prices were lower for milk and coffee.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.2 percent. Prices for food at home increased 3.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 5.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 1.1 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-2.0 percent). Prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 3.7 percent, while prices for electricity decreased 2.7 percent for the same period.

Energy prices declined 8.2 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-17.5 percent). Prices paid for utility (piped) gas service advanced 5.9 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent in September. Higher prices for apparel (+9.6 percent) and shelter (+0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for other goods and services (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (+2.0 percent) and medical care (+6.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-4.7 percent) and other goods and services (-0.4 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	-0.9	0.3
May.....	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.4
June.....	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2	-0.4	1.0	0.3	1.1
July.....	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.0
August.....	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	1.6	0.1	1.0
September.....	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.2	1.4	0.6	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 October 2020 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Thursday, November 12, 2020.

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

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in September 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 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/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.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 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-		
	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Sep. 2019	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	244.046	244.341	245.745	1.4	0.7	0.6
All items (1967=100)	729.109	729.989	734.183	-	-	-
Food and beverages	261.891	260.499	265.079	4.1	1.2	1.8
Food	261.601	259.872	264.931	4.2	1.3	1.9
Food at home	251.201	246.435	246.143	3.2	-2.0	-0.1
Cereals and bakery products	277.926	275.587	278.781	3.9	0.3	1.2
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	279.904	263.884	267.299	5.7	-4.5	1.3
Dairy and related products	228.118	233.675	227.612	8.3	-0.2	-2.6
Fruits and vegetables	312.591	308.078	295.809	-6.2	-5.4	-4.0
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	207.069	206.231	212.088	6.8	2.4	2.8
Other food at home	201.867	198.818	199.412	4.3	-1.2	0.3
Food away from home	270.282	272.882	285.383	5.4	5.6	4.6
Alcoholic beverages	264.204	267.163	265.543	2.9	0.5	-0.6
Housing	258.864	259.549	259.955	2.0	0.4	0.2
Shelter	329.702	330.642	331.358	2.0	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2)	350.090	350.673	351.302	2.5	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	339.121	340.744	341.200	3.1	0.6	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	339.121	340.744	341.200	3.1	0.6	0.1
Fuels and utilities	208.234	209.238	208.748	2.1	0.2	-0.2
Household energy	159.964	160.986	160.473	2.1	0.3	-0.3
Energy services(2)	163.230	164.263	163.753	2.2	0.3	-0.3
Electricity(2)	165.959	167.590	163.117	0.0	-1.7	-2.7
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	145.788	145.844	151.283	5.9	3.8	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	90.463	90.365	90.418	1.8	0.0	0.1
Apparel	79.524	79.850	87.534	-4.7	10.1	9.6
Transportation	178.567	179.927	177.932	-4.6	-0.4	-1.1
Private transportation	179.789	180.116	178.364	-2.9	-0.8	-1.0
New and used motor vehicles(4)	98.477	98.531	98.567	3.4	0.1	0.0
New vehicles(1)	174.836	173.124	171.260	0.1	-2.0	-1.1
Used cars and trucks(1)	272.236	288.106	295.325	10.6	8.5	2.5
Motor fuel	209.208	207.903	203.881	-17.5	-2.5	-1.9
Gasoline (all types)	207.227	205.960	201.921	-17.5	-2.6	-2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	198.893	197.638	193.494	-17.8	-2.7	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	232.457	231.165	229.295	-15.4	-1.4	-0.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	234.981	234.048	231.784	-13.8	-1.4	-1.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	540.884	540.884	510.182	-4.0	-5.7	-5.7
Medical care	536.764	535.786	538.491	6.2	0.3	0.5
Recreation(4)	114.416	114.536	115.020	1.6	0.5	0.4
Education and communication(4)	141.495	141.498	142.272	0.5	0.5	0.5
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,217.376	1,216.774	1,216.696	1.7	-0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	409.841	409.307	408.328	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	244.046	244.341	245.745	1.4	0.7	0.6
Commodities	167.969	167.792	170.026	0.1	1.2	1.3
Commodities less food and beverages	122.765	123.040	124.276	-2.7	1.2	1.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	162.277	162.400	165.597	-6.3	2.0	2.0
Durables	85.603	85.943	85.843	2.4	0.3	-0.1
Services	316.546	317.348	317.766	2.0	0.4	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-		
	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Sep. 2019	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	231.444	231.800	233.149	0.9	0.7	0.6
All items less shelter	215.060	215.141	216.768	1.1	0.8	0.8
Commodities less food	127.554	127.900	129.075	-2.4	1.2	0.9
Nondurables	211.731	211.134	215.030	-0.6	1.6	1.8
Nondurables less food	168.797	169.091	172.006	-5.6	1.9	1.7
Services less rent of shelter(3)	318.504	319.318	319.429	2.1	0.3	0.0
Services less medical care services	299.467	300.387	300.551	1.2	0.4	0.1
Energy	178.678	178.764	176.851	-8.2	-1.0	-1.1
All items less energy	252.176	252.492	254.197	2.0	0.8	0.7
All items less food and energy	251.342	252.029	253.133	1.6	0.7	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.