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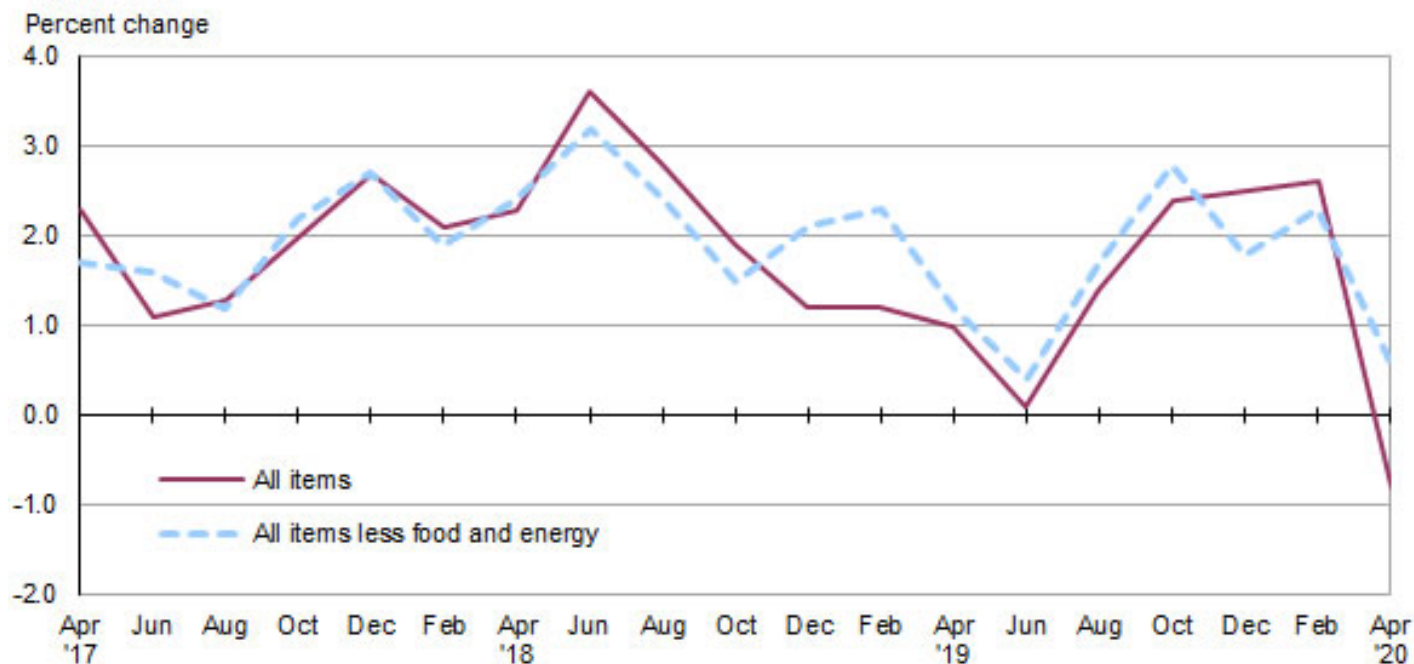
Consumer Price Index, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn — April 2020

Local prices down 0.8 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn area decreased 2.7 percent from February to April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the energy index fell 17.1 percent and the index for food decreased 1.2 percent over the bi-monthly period. The all items less food and energy index fell 1.9 percent. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were lower for motor vehicle insurance, shelter, and apparel. (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 Detroit all items CPI-U decreased 0.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent and the food index was up 1.3 percent from April 2019 to April 2020. The energy index fell 21.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, April 2017–April 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were down 1.2 percent from February to April. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 3.3 percent and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) fell 6.4 percent over the bi-monthly period.

Over the year, food prices in the Detroit area were up 1.3 percent. Prices for groceries increased 5.3 percent and prices for food away from home decreased 3.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index for Detroit was down 17.1 percent from February to April. Among the index's components, prices were lower for gasoline (-35.4 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-5.2 percent), while electricity costs increased 0.3 percent over the bi-monthly period.

From April 2019 to April 2020, overall energy prices decreased 21.3 percent. Gasoline prices and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 45.6 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively. The electricity index increased 12.1 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy decreased 1.9 percent from February to April. Among the index's components, prices were lower for motor vehicle insurance (-13.8 percent), shelter (-1.4 percent), and apparel (-9.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent. Prices were higher for medical care (+5.5 percent), shelter (+1.3 percent), and new and used motor vehicles (2.7 percent), but lower for apparel (-8.6 percent) and motor vehicle insurance (-6.1 percent).

Table A. Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.3	0.9	0.9	3.0	0.3	2.1	0.4	1.2	0.5	2.6
April	1.4	1.1	0.7	2.3	0.9	2.3	0.6	1.0	-2.7	-0.8
June	1.2	2.3	0.0	1.1	1.3	3.6	0.4	0.1		
August	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.3	-0.6	2.8	0.6	1.4		
October	0.2	1.7	0.9	2.0	0.0	1.9	1.0	2.4		
December	-0.6	2.4	0.1	2.7	-0.6	1.2	-0.6	2.5		

The June 2020 Consumer Price Index for Detroit is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on April 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 April 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/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI.

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 **Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, and Wayne Counties in Michigan.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	Apr. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	238.634	-	232.107	-0.8	-2.7	-
All items (1967=100).....	709.319	-	689.917	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	230.694	-	228.137	1.2	-1.1	-
Food.....	230.017	-	227.353	1.3	-1.2	-
Food at home.....	213.829	212.899	220.812	5.3	3.3	3.7
Cereals and bakery products.....	272.912	-	273.221	3.3	0.1	-
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs.....	227.151	-	242.790	12.0	6.9	-
Dairy and related products.....	163.021	-	166.901	4.8	2.4	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	225.767	-	231.845	2.1	2.7	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	203.778	-	215.508	8.2	5.8	-
Other food at home.....	193.504	-	196.285	1.4	1.4	-
Food away from home.....	255.654	-	239.212	-3.6	-6.4	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	233.435	-	232.171	0.3	-0.5	-
Housing.....	227.986	-	225.190	1.5	-1.2	-
Shelter.....	263.780	264.912	260.074	1.3	-1.4	-1.8
Rent of primary residence(2).....	271.724	273.284	271.921	2.8	0.1	-0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	262.439	265.494	260.543	2.4	-0.7	-1.9
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3).....	262.439	265.494	260.543	2.4	-0.7	-1.9
Fuels and utilities.....	255.301	-	251.283	4.6	-1.6	-
Household energy.....	196.513	193.074	192.633	5.4	-2.0	-0.2
Energy services(2).....	198.224	194.887	194.529	5.9	-1.9	-0.2
Electricity(2).....	237.626	238.367	238.302	12.1	0.3	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	145.129	138.170	137.561	-2.9	-5.2	-0.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	118.864	-	119.016	-0.7	0.1	-
Apparel.....	113.312	-	103.018	-8.6	-9.1	-
Transportation.....	244.710	-	224.023	-9.3	-8.5	-
Private transportation.....	246.754	-	227.584	-8.4	-7.8	-
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	111.874	-	112.742	2.7	0.8	-
New vehicles(1).....	216.113	-	212.269	1.3	-1.8	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	284.207	-	288.872	-0.9	1.6	-
Motor fuel.....	214.528	190.225	139.366	-45.2	-35.0	-26.7
Gasoline (all types).....	213.134	188.745	137.709	-45.6	-35.4	-27.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5).....	213.467	188.314	136.298	-46.6	-36.2	-27.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6).....	257.274	233.883	179.478	-39.5	-30.2	-23.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5).....	230.767	210.980	164.903	-37.0	-28.5	-21.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	1,954.180	-	1,684.064	-6.1	-13.8	-
Medical care.....	464.056	-	462.205	5.5	-0.4	-
Recreation(4).....	113.504	-	112.691	0.0	-0.7	-
Education and communication(4).....	145.567	-	146.456	1.6	0.6	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,323.608	-	1,323.621	1.8	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....	447.579	-	442.229	-0.8	-1.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	238.634	-	232.107	-0.8	-2.7	-
Commodities.....	176.813	-	169.549	-5.1	-4.1	-
Commodities less food and beverages.....	149.249	-	140.401	-8.9	-5.9	-
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	180.023	-	159.028	-16.8	-11.7	-
Durables.....	113.556	-	112.945	0.5	-0.5	-
Services.....	301.446	-	295.764	1.7	-1.9	-

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 Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	Apr. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	229.420	-	222.664	-1.4	-2.9	-
All items less shelter	231.905	-	224.269	-1.7	-3.3	-
Commodities less food	152.286	-	143.637	-8.4	-5.7	-
Nondurables	205.083	-	193.200	-7.3	-5.8	-
Nondurables less food.....	183.518	-	163.975	-15.4	-10.6	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	356.540	-	348.353	2.2	-2.3	-
Services less medical care services.....	290.573	-	284.476	1.1	-2.1	-
Energy	208.426	195.617	172.691	-21.3	-17.1	-11.7
All items less energy	244.387	-	240.094	0.7	-1.8	-
All items less food and energy	247.610	-	243.016	0.6	-1.9	-

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.