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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

## **Consumer Price Index, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington — May 2020**

**Area prices edged down 0.1 percent over the past two months, unchanged from a year ago**

Prices in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged down 0.1 percent for the two months ending in May 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Julie Wilson noted that the energy index was lower over the two-month period, and food prices were higher from March-May. The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged over the past two months. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U was unchanged. (See [table A.](#)) Energy prices fell 21.2 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. Food prices rose 3.0 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

### **Food**

Food prices increased 1.6 percent for the two months ending in May. Prices for food at home (groceries) rose 1.7 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) advanced 1.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.0 percent. Prices for food at home increased 2.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 3.6 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index decreased 6.4 percent for the two months ending in May. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-18.5 percent). Prices for utility (piped) gas service increased 8.8 percent, and prices for electricity rose 6.7 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 21.2 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-36.9 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 1.2 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 4.0 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in the latest two-month period. Categories experiencing price increases included new and used motor vehicles (4.2 percent), shelter (0.6 percent), and household furnishings and operations (1.4 percent). Lower prices were noted in the categories for recreation (-3.1 percent), motor vehicle insurance (-20.2 percent), and apparel (-3.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.1 percent), medical care (2.5 percent), and other goods and services (4.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-9.5 percent) and education and communication (-1.4 percent).

**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		2020	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.3		0.4	1.4	0.6	3.0
March .....	0.5		1.4	2.3	-0.3	1.2
May.....	1.0		1.0	2.3	-0.1	0.0
July .....	0.3		0.3	2.2		
September.....	0.3		-0.2	1.7		
November.....	-1.2	1.3	-0.2	2.8		

**The July 2020 Consumer Price Index for Minneapolis is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on May 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 May 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 in Minnesota; and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin.

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**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-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	251.570	-	251.243	0.0	-0.1	-
All items (1967=100) .....	790.566	-	789.537	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	288.660	-	293.606	3.2	1.7	-
Food .....	277.401	-	281.764	3.0	1.6	-
Food at home .....	249.456	251.758	253.796	2.3	1.7	0.8
Cereals and bakery products .....	284.753	-	263.399	-5.6	-7.5	-
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs .....	261.749	-	288.043	9.4	10.0	-
Dairy and related products .....	281.786	-	286.006	5.6	1.5	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	338.523	-	342.796	-0.7	1.3	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	156.057	-	156.183	-2.1	0.1	-
Other food at home .....	199.201	-	199.891	2.9	0.3	-
Food away from home .....	317.028	-	321.279	3.6	1.3	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	386.841	-	399.180	5.5	3.2	-
Housing .....	241.643	-	244.116	3.3	1.0	-
Shelter .....	289.588	290.059	291.257	4.1	0.6	0.4
Rent of primary residence(2) .....	297.317	297.638	298.583	5.2	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3) .....	302.832	304.386	305.990	4.8	1.0	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3) .....	302.832	304.386	305.990	4.8	1.0	0.5
Fuels and utilities .....	201.338	-	211.536	0.2	5.1	-
Household energy .....	174.797	174.582	186.227	-0.6	6.5	6.7
Energy services(2) .....	177.171	178.179	190.220	-0.4	7.4	6.8
Electricity(2) .....	250.707	256.975	267.509	1.2	6.7	4.1
Utility (piped) gas service(2) .....	113.276	109.325	123.195	-4.0	8.8	12.7
Household furnishings and operations .....	120.400	-	122.133	0.3	1.4	-
Apparel .....	132.295	-	128.230	-9.5	-3.1	-
Transportation .....	187.834	-	179.871	-12.8	-4.2	-
Private transportation .....	176.687	-	170.072	-10.9	-3.7	-
New and used motor vehicles(4) .....	88.959	-	92.721	2.0	4.2	-
New vehicles(1) .....	149.360	-	159.651	2.7	6.9	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	275.994	-	271.244	-0.1	-1.7	-
Motor fuel .....	177.120	136.476	145.036	-36.4	-18.1	6.3
Gasoline (all types) .....	177.027	135.350	144.252	-36.9	-18.5	6.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5) .....	176.323	133.528	143.796	-37.2	-18.4	7.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6) .....	191.019	166.258	155.679	-33.3	-18.5	-6.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5) .....	230.574	191.497	186.078	-34.1	-19.3	-2.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	470.398	-	375.583	-24.8	-20.2	-
Medical care .....	570.278	-	574.564	2.5	0.8	-
Recreation(4) .....	136.206	-	132.028	1.2	-3.1	-
Education and communication(4) .....	137.046	-	137.299	-1.4	0.2	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,089.712	-	1,089.712	-3.6	0.0	-
Other goods and services .....	392.622	-	391.017	4.4	-0.4	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	251.570	-	251.243	0.0	-0.1	-
Commodities .....	184.989	-	184.306	-3.1	-0.4	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	140.491	-	138.161	-6.8	-1.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	184.326	-	175.045	-12.4	-5.0	-
Durables .....	102.599	-	105.145	0.5	2.5	-
Services .....	310.989	-	311.007	1.9	0.0	-

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-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	237.211	-	236.698	-0.2	-0.2	-
All items less shelter .....	236.337	-	235.161	-2.0	-0.5	-
Commodities less food .....	148.887	-	146.787	-6.2	-1.4	-
Nondurables .....	232.647	-	229.239	-4.5	-1.5	-
Nondurables less food .....	197.537	-	189.039	-10.9	-4.3	-
Services less rent of shelter(3) .....	347.911	-	345.662	-0.6	-0.6	-
Services less medical care services .....	287.313	-	287.264	1.7	0.0	-
Energy .....	178.430	156.803	166.974	-21.2	-6.4	6.5
All items less energy .....	262.414	-	262.955	1.5	0.2	-
All items less food and energy .....	260.286	-	260.276	1.2	0.0	-

**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.