



For Release: Sunday, May 31, 2020

20-884-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

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

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

test-news-release

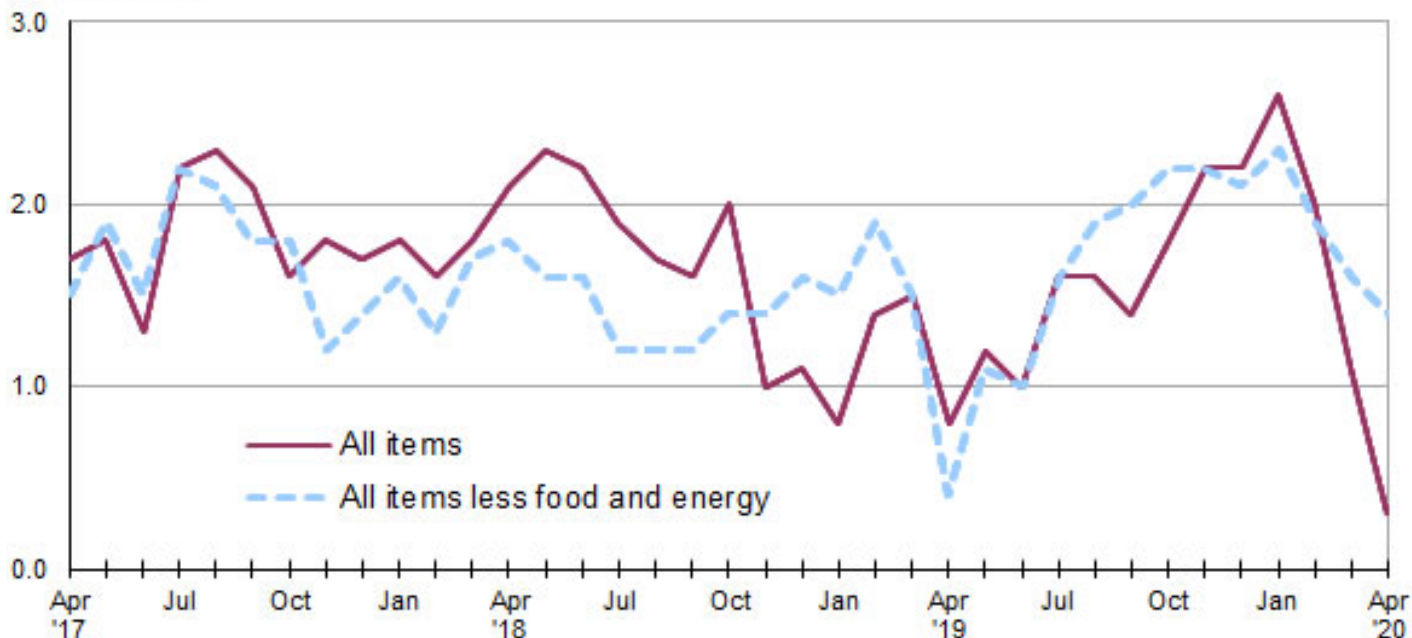
Local prices up 0.3 percent over the year

May-31-2020: The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area was down 0.9 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that the index for food was up 1.7 percent, and the energy index fell 8.7 percent over the month. The all items less food and energy index decreased 0.9 percent in April. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices were lower over the month for apparel, shelter, and motor vehicle insurance. (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 0.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Over the year, the all items less food and energy index rose 1.4 percent. The food index was up 4.1 percent, and the energy index declined 20.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

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

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 1.7 percent in April. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) increased 3.2 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were unchanged.

From April 2019 to April 2020, the food index increased 4.1 percent. Over the year, grocery prices were up 5.8 percent, and costs for food away from home rose 2.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 8.7 percent in April. Among the index's components, prices were lower for gasoline (-18.3 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-2.1 percent). Electricity costs rose 0.8 percent over the month.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index fell 20.7 percent. From April 2019 to April 2020, prices for all major energy categories were lower: gasoline (-37.1 percent), electricity (-1.6 percent), and utility (piped) gas service (-1.3 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy fell 0.9 percent in April. Among the index's components, prices were lower over the month for apparel (-9.6 percent), shelter (-0.5 percent), and motor vehicle insurance (-13.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.4 percent. Contributing factors included increases in the indexes for medical care (+11.9 percent), shelter (+1.8 percent), and recreation (+1.6 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	-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		
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 May 2020 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 10, 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 **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-		
	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	Apr. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	244.407	242.655	240.364	0.3	-1.7	-0.9
All items (1967=100)	730.185	724.952	718.107	-	-	-
Food and beverages	255.505	256.559	260.717	3.8	2.0	1.6
Food	255.290	256.325	260.803	4.1	2.2	1.7
Food at home	238.993	240.375	247.949	5.8	3.7	3.2
Cereals and bakery products	269.129	268.312	277.638	5.7	3.2	3.5
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	258.974	254.515	265.907	4.7	2.7	4.5
Dairy and related products	219.665	218.368	231.696	9.5	5.5	6.1
Fruits and vegetables	306.541	309.545	305.524	0.6	-0.3	-1.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	200.437	204.919	213.466	10.7	6.5	4.2
Other food at home	188.791	193.464	200.135	6.8	6.0	3.4
Food away from home	272.445	272.968	272.968	2.1	0.2	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	256.885	258.169	258.170	-0.8	0.5	0.0
Housing	257.240	256.879	255.767	1.4	-0.6	-0.4
Shelter	326.946	327.720	325.920	1.8	-0.3	-0.5
Rent of primary residence(2)	347.141	347.474	347.314	2.4	0.0	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	335.642	336.407	336.343	2.9	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	335.642	336.407	336.343	2.9	0.2	0.0
Fuels and utilities	211.158	206.240	205.564	-0.6	-2.6	-0.3
Household energy	163.454	158.176	157.702	-1.6	-3.5	-0.3
Energy services(2)	166.725	161.367	160.932	-1.5	-3.5	-0.3
Electricity(2)	170.602	163.667	165.031	-1.6	-3.3	0.8
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	147.284	144.716	141.635	-1.3	-3.8	-2.1
Household furnishings and operations	89.614	88.746	89.099	0.1	-0.6	0.4
Apparel	86.594	84.616	76.468	-11.0	-11.7	-9.6
Transportation	186.324	178.064	168.524	-12.3	-9.6	-5.4
Private transportation	183.677	178.432	168.900	-10.4	-8.0	-5.3
New and used motor vehicles(4)	96.853	96.071	97.270	0.9	0.4	1.2
New vehicles(1)	175.660	172.315	174.194	0.1	-0.8	1.1
Used cars and trucks(1)	263.512	270.063	267.837	-0.9	1.6	-0.8
Motor fuel	232.225	208.787	171.027	-36.8	-26.4	-18.1
Gasoline (all types)	229.843	206.470	168.745	-37.1	-26.6	-18.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	221.087	198.107	160.926	-37.8	-27.2	-18.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	255.672	230.945	195.459	-33.9	-23.6	-15.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	254.880	235.425	203.198	-29.9	-20.3	-13.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	546.859	545.270	470.457	-11.3	-14.0	-13.7
Medical care	532.972	532.510	531.220	11.9	-0.3	-0.2
Recreation(4)	114.606	113.031	113.562	1.6	-0.9	0.5
Education and communication(4)	142.628	142.825	142.657	1.4	0.0	-0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,209.724	1,209.724	1,209.724	2.9	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services	407.236	410.371	409.229	1.5	0.5	-0.3
Commodity and service group						
All items	244.407	242.655	240.364	0.3	-1.7	-0.9
Commodities	168.553	166.751	164.139	-3.5	-2.6	-1.6
Commodities less food and beverages	125.834	123.119	118.230	-8.5	-6.0	-4.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	170.833	164.048	152.032	-15.0	-11.0	-7.3
Durables	84.973	85.047	85.056	0.2	0.1	0.0
Services	316.641	315.028	313.201	2.4	-1.1	-0.6

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-		
	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	Apr. 2019	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	232.001	230.181	227.831	-0.8	-1.8	-1.0
All items less shelter	216.448	213.868	211.421	-0.5	-2.3	-1.1
Commodities less food	130.387	127.748	122.937	-8.2	-5.7	-3.8
Nondurables	213.276	210.141	205.680	-4.8	-3.6	-2.1
Nondurables less food	176.418	170.102	158.781	-13.9	-10.0	-6.7
Services less rent of shelter(3)	321.697	317.415	315.484	3.1	-1.9	-0.6
Services less medical care services	300.138	298.302	296.270	0.7	-1.3	-0.7
Energy	189.952	177.447	162.074	-20.7	-14.7	-8.7
All items less energy	251.593	250.757	249.577	1.8	-0.8	-0.5
All items less food and energy	251.795	250.616	248.408	1.4	-1.3	-0.9

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.